TALE

OF THE

TIMES.

BY THE AUTHOR OF A GOSSIP'S STORY.

DEDICATED, BY PERMISSION, TO MRS. CARTER.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

Nor shall the pile of hope God's mercy rear'd,
By vain philosophy be e'er destroy'd:
Eternity, by all or wish'd or fear'd,
Shall be by all or suffer'd or enjoy'd.
MASON's Elegy on the Death of Lady Coventry.

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CHAP. I.

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chined to heam friamtraonad AreiA ions to A freih market. He thought that his person might

"a tenth part of your address would make the pretty driveller accede to any thing. Can't you give her a little sentiment upon the occain fion, and tell her, that by referving all her foritune in her own power, it will be absolutely impossible for her ever to enjoy the sublime gratification of receiving obligations from the person she loves? Can't you bourish too upon the provision in case of separation and divorce, and declare that the frigorise idea petrifies your whole frame? Be master of her fortune, however, at all events; for let me tell you, my dear lad, a wife's affections in this age are

"but a transferable commodity of little perma-

Edward felt too well convinced of his influence to doubt the pollibility of his acquiring the elittering prize upon his own terms; and he fketched in his mind the only conditions upon which he would confeno to give the lady the honour of his name. These conditions were remarkable for nothing but their being a direct contradiction to lady Madelina's plan, But on his first conversation with lady Arabella upon the subject he discovered, that he had greatly mistaken her character when he attributed to it any degree of pliability in pecuniary matters. She, indeed, loved to fquander with thoughtless profulion; but that very love of fquandering fuggested the propriety of retaining the power of doing fo; and the lovers parted with great mutual diffatisfaction: Edward convinced that his merits would confer honour upon any lady on whom he bestowed his hand, and lady Arabella persuaded that a younger brother has no right to expect a higher office man to be his wife's theward, if he be so lucky as to engage the good opinion of a woman of fortune. Both seemed inclined

clined to bring their matrimonial pretentions to a fresh market. He thought that his person might attract fome fair one equally rich and less mercenary; and fire knew, that when people calculate upon good matches, there is always as great. a difference between present possession and reverfionary expectation, as there is between the comparative folendor of a baronial and a ducal coronet. The gentleman pondered upon the propriety of differning his addresses; but the lady haftened his deliberations by informing him, that if his vifits at Portland-place were upon her account, the begged the might not in future interrupt his important avocations; and thus Mr. Firzosborne was fuddenly reduced to the fituation of a rejected swain, a condition which the versatility of his talents knew how to improve.

Lady Arabella's frivolity, felfishness, and avowed expectation of making superior conquests, did not discredit the tale which Fitzosborne told of his dismission. The blunt integrity of land Monteith's character took fire at his fifter's evident dereliction of the principles of honour, gon-Rancy, and female delicacy; and the reluctance with which the specious Edward appeared to dilcover her caprice irritated his ardent temper still more. He charged her with hafe infidelity and erofs indecorum; and the evaded the charge by urging, that the was a free independant being, and accountable to no one for her actions, which were the refult of her opinions; and no one had any right to scrutinize the opinions of others. The earl raved against this heterodox doctrine, because it militated against his with of supremady, without discovering that there was a degree of ingratitude in the application of thefe principles against the interest of the master from whom the had acquired them; and her ladyship boylolst he be lo lucky as to engage the good opiyou of a woman of fortune. Both feemed in-

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nefnlyed neveb no, milleall ther hulband by furhilling railprevious-dinftance nofiquer inhumiffronto inch brother sauthority no She demoved on the very exerting of the dispute so, the house of lord viscount it zofborned and the real and

In order to explain the reason of her choosing that afvlum, I muft amiddle a timle Machiavehan policy, to The fituation of the noble house of Bitzosborne was become sonvery precarious in point of credit, that the representative of its honours, like Shakefpeare's Percey had/long of cast "many a northern look to fee the Frazer bring "un his powers." The illustrious viscount indeed could not give himself a legal title to that fpacious inheritance which now centered in lady Arabella; but his fraternal wifh of transferring it to his own family was not quite difinterested. Edward had ever appeared too abstracted, too generous, and too fuperfor to low mercenary views, to deny a brother the loan of a few thousands, and his indifference to money was in the vifcount's opinion the cause of his present disappointment; for had his whole heart been engroffed by the defire of advancing his fortune, the -pretty bird might have beat her gay plumage in unfeles vexation, at finding herfelf furrounded by too many toils ever to hope for recovered liberty.

In opposition to those faturnine censors who affirm that a genteel pair never think or act in concert, I have to relate a scheme in which the viscount and his lady cordially co-operated, and which, though it might not terminate in an invocation of Venus's antique doves, promised to produce a modern pigeon. The farce commenced with a visit from the viscountess to her dear friend; during which she heard with mingled surprise and grief that Mr. Fitzosborne's expected of blow of ton not want size of my mutations

tations were fo very illiberal, and his temper to very uncomplying that the connection was diffolved. She commended the laudable fpirit which dictated lady Arabella's resolution of sooner breaking her heart than submitting to unjustifiable demands; but when the added, that, by thus acting with proper regard to female dignity, the had excited the refertment of her brother, the indignation of her sympathizing friend exceeded all bounds with bitter farcalins on the indelicacy of lord Monteith's interference, the intreated her to remove directly to lord Fitzoforne's, an I affured her, that offended beauty would find a protector in the viscount, who would either compel Edward to make proper concessions, or difown him for a brother of There was forsething truly Roman in this fentiment. It was expressed with becoming dignity; and the viscounters, still farther to enforce it added, "You will get a " little more into the world, my dear, from which, "it is certain, you have lately been too much "fecluded. We have frequently little private "parties, at which you cannot object to taking a of card, for nobody will know any thing about it, fo that there cannot be any indecorum! I pro-" teft, I think you grow more bewitching every "hour Your mourning becomes you fo exof quifitely, that in pity to the world I ought to propose keeping you shut up, that other belles off may have a little chance; but Lown I am ma-"licious enough to wish to give a little fillip to "Edward's fears. Nothing is fo animating as a of firong fit of jealouly, and I know that to make "fresh conquests you need only appear." So friendship urged; and its arguments were confriend, during which the heard with ministriuls-

The parties might now be faid to be fairly drawn up in battle array; for, not to yield to the

Fitz-

Fitzofbornes in hospitality; lord Monteith had infifted that Edward should become his guest; and, though their taftes and dispositions were by no means in uniform he fancied himself highly gratified with the companion he had felected and he was much too warm an advocate for what he esteemed an injured character to permit the countefs to continue neuter Fitzoforne's affected dejection foon interested her feeling heart; and, though the could fearcely confider the loss of an Arabella to be a misfortune, the felt that great allowance should be made for the force of difappointment upen a mind fo ftrongly susceptible. Still incredulous as to the reality of his attachment, she was inclined to believe, that after he had acceded to the proposals of his friends, a fense of honour and the force of habit had produced in his refined disposition a recurrence of the fame images, which might be almost supposed equivalent to preference. The void which female caprice had left in his imagination must be at prefent painful, and, though an enlightened understanding would soon occupy the chasm with a more brilliant fet of ideas, delicate fenfibility might be allowed to fart at the illiberal ridicule which a cenforious world is ever ready to bestow on a jilted swain or a forsaken damsel." Belide, without being mercenary, might not a prudent man regret the loss of a splendid establishment? To foften that regret the exerted all the brilliant powers of her mind, and all the fafcinating graces of her numerous accomplishments. Charmed out of his pretended melancholy, Fitzosborne seemed to bestow a listless attention, varying the contour of his expressions as the ftyle of her attractions required : Sometimes terminating his filent adulation by exclaiming, "Happy Monteith!" At another expatiating in praise of friendship, or, if he aimed at making the most forcible impression, he only interrupted the vivacity of her tones by the frequency of his sighs. But in either instance he was equally careful that lord Monteith should hear both the exclamations and the fighs.

Disappointed by perceiving that his dejection did not yield to time, and more than ever convinced that love could not have made fuch an incurable wound, the counters began to suspect that this diforder was constitutional, and she proposed his applying to fociety and change of fcene, the usual recipe for a melancholic humour. His constant rejection of invitations induced her to pique his pride. "Do you know," faid the that lady Arabella flourishes in the first circles. and is become fo very irrefiftible, that not only " wits and beaus write madrigals to her, but a " certain young duke of our acquaintance is "thought to be feriously entangled? They are " to be at the opera together to-hight in his " grace's box. Now I intend to go, and take " you for my cecifee. What fay you to my " scheme but It will be generous to shew the voung adventurer how Armida metamorpholes " her knights before he is irrecoverably enchant. Before, without being mercenary, might iisbs "

"I am very willing to exhibit my woe-begone face, if the publication of it will afford you any amulement," returned Fitzotherne. "The duke and I shall not exchange any angry glances, and I honour lady Arabella's fincerity too much to feel any resentment at her conduct. "She has only exercised the indubitable right of every human being. Her heart has charged its possessor, and she has obeyed its dictates."

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Confidering the prejudices of the times, I " certainly do. But is there not a great degree of cruelty in requiring constancy from those " minds that have not sufficient fortitude to be " really immutable? And after all, as we can " only assume the appearance of it, is it not also " unjust, and wicked too, as we create a neces-" fity for hypocrify? To difeases in different " constitutions we prescribe different remedics; but the disorders of the mind must be all cured " by one universal panacea. Surely it is only the tyranny of custom that prevents us from " adapting our moral code to every character, " instead of stretching dissimilar minds on the gigantic iron couch defigned for a Procrusa tes."

Lady Monteith felt startled. She recollected that where much was given much would be required; yet this text related to dissimilar powers of doing good, and could not possibly be urged in extenuation of any vicious action. But Fitz-osborne interrupted her musings by assuming a gayer air than he had lately exhibited. "I see," and he, "I shall have some difficulty to reconcile you to all my opinious; But, no matter; when I legislate for the world, don't flatter yourself, that I shall propose a lax system to you. I know how to estimate your mental ability, and your code shall be rigorous and coercive."

"Dare you repeat this speech to-night at the opera in the hearing of lady Arabella?" said the counters.

"There requires no courage to repeat an un"disputed truth in the hearing of the whole
"world."

world." Lady Monteith forgot her disapprobation of the novelty, singularity, and laxity of Fitzosborne's opinions; and as she drove to form her party for the evening, she only remembered his happy talent at a compliment.

confiancy from those those of crucky from those minds that have not sufficient fortitude to be really immutable i. And after all, as we can culy assume the appearance of it, is it not also unjust, and wicked too, as we create a necessity unjust, and wicked too, as we create a necessity.

It is Jealoufy's peculiar nature
To swell small things to great; nay out of nothing
To conjure much.

Young.

ranny, of cultom that prevents us from HE polite world were to engroffed by engagements, that lady Monteith found it impossible to form a party to her satisfaction. Exclusive of the pale votaries, who facrifice peace, health, fortune, and honour at the shrine of Pharo, several were engaged to the Quizzes, and more to the Cabinet of Monkies, which was just opened. The fair countels could fearcely get any body into her party but those who were left out of all others: and they who refused her secretly laughed at the rufficity of supposing any body, who lived in the world, could defer till two o'clock the important business of fixing the evening occupation. She was forced to be contented with an antiquated belle of the last age, and a would-be fine lady of the prefent, to whom the was lucky enough to add a beau, fir Hargrave Nappy, a gentleman, who though known by every body to be incurably deaf, had long laboured under the tantalifing defire of withing to be thought a connoisseur in music. With this reefigir he constantly attended the he hearing of the whole were ec plion 33

where this university of contenance and fixed poly of the poly of

Surrounded by the group I have described, and efcorted by the gallant b dward Fitzosborne, lady Monteith entered a fide-box opposite to that which was occupied by lady Arabella's party. Had Geraldine intended to have felected foils for her own person, the females in ther train were most happily gifted by nature for that purpose; and in point of celebrity they were fuft enough known to make it difficult for any lady to decline being their companion. Repeated mortifications had taught them the arcana of high life; and the protection of a countels was fufficiently flattering to confine them to that humble part which they supposed her ladyship intended they should fullain. Claiming fire Hargrave for their fhare of the beaus, they invited him to feat himfelf between them, and they addressed all their obfervations to him, without once turning their heads to listen to the conversation which passed behind them. But fir Hargrave was fo absorbed in opera ecfracies, that unters his eve happened to inform him that he was peculiarly addressed. all the fmart things passed utterly unnoticed. Indeed the only honour that they ever received was a half bend, after which the amateur refumed his former erect polition, and with one hand in his bosom, and the other (on which was a fine antique) beating time on the front of the box, he repeated, like Shakespeare's Lorenzo, "Mark " the mufic." I and between vierrality seed non-based uop

It is a very great pity that these unfortunate fmart things should be wholly lost. The prescient muse at least must be supposed to have heard them; but I feel so anxious to return to the

capitalistic of them to fome other opportunity, promising, if possible, either to interweave them with the history of my travels, or, if I have no other means of introduction, to give them to the world in the form of More last words of Mrs. Prudential ledge A year yet being so saw doing

The blooming Geraldine never appeared for enchanting She perceived with a degree of pleafure in which the did not suspect any criminality, that the adventures of her box proved infinitely more interesting to lady Arabella, than the devoirs of the noble duke whom the withed to exhibit as her captive. Fitzofborne was in. excellent spirits. The countess enjoyed the circumffance. She thought he had been extremely ill used, and the applauded the spirit which could return infult with contempt. His attentions to herfelf, confidered in this point of view, gave her fincere satisfaction. She returned them. Her natural vivacity, combining with accidental circumstances, hurried her into a degree of mirth. which, to those who were unacquainted with its motives, appeared to border upon coquetry, more than the innocence of her heart and the rectifude of her principles would have permitted.

But while the lamb, hasking in the blaze of noon, bounds over the slowery hillock, the wolf watches its haunts and meditates its destruction. To exemplify my pastoral simile: Fitzosborne saw with diabolical exultation, that Geraldine's behaviour had attracted general attention. He doubted not but calumny would be ready to frame some malignant whisper, and he understood the maxim which teaches that "virtue rarely survives the loss of reputation." Though he conceived that the powers of his own invention were fully

equal

equal to overthrow any defence which lady Monteich might make, he did not disdain adventitious aid sHis watchful eye, though feemingly only fixed on the lovely form which was feated by him, had discovered lord Monteith in the pit ... He perceived too that he was attentive to his lady's behaviour, and he fancied he read displeasure in his countenance (SO) Can this thoughtless ani-"mal," faid Fitzofborne to bimfelf." have " any thing like jealouly in his composition? He " feems less careles than usual. If foo it is in-" deed above my hopes," bus without ed mon

While he ruminated on this idea, the door of the box opened, and a young man of fashion Repped in. He was an intimate friend of lord Monteith's; and, feeing the countefs in what: he thought a new point of view he was defireous of sharing the pleasure which her conversation afforded. This did not increase the gaiety of the party. The appearance of a stranger caused a temporary interruption. Geraldine recollected her thoughts, and her natural delicacy feemed to fhrink from an intrufion which, though fanctioned by the freedom of our prefent fystem of manners, seemed inconsistent with strict politeness. His style of address too was bold and familiar, very different from the infinuating fenfibility of Fitzofborne, who, though confcious of diffinction, never appeared to prefume upon. favour. She determined to mark her approbation of his behaviour by her own conduct, and, instead of the confidence and vivacity which marked her deportment previous to the entrance of her new guest, she became as cold and circumscribed in her answers as the rules of civility could possibly admit to source had blow brodis evening. Poor Arabella every body

and ord Monteigh now entered the box and as he never concealed any fentiment, the difpleature he felt was ffrongly marked in his countenance. He had heard his lady pointed out as uncommonly beautiful by a stranger who fat next him and though he was very well pleafed with that plaus dit; the subsequent observations were not failed factory, Torne words Charming creature !! were added wand to gay, to lively too in her o manners what a happy man that gentleman "inuft be ?" The ffranger was just arrived from the country, and unwittingly supposed that a married pair would not forfeit their claims to celebrity by appearing at the same entertainment in the same party. Every exclamation which he untered in compliment of the affectionate arrend tion of this peerless couple increased the earl's reftleffness; and, no tonger able to conceal his own right to the charmer who thus falcinated all eyes, he tuddenly role and joined her. He had feen nothing in her manner which cuftom did not justify, and Fitzosborne was of all others the friend in whom he could most confide. Wet, without knowing what to blame, he thought the of manners, feemthiver beriliper mothers de lewis

Geraldine had not that species of sortitude which sees displeasure on a husband's brow without any sentiment but exultation. She was ignorant of those principles which teach the dissipated wife who has long renounced the power of pleasing to exult in the capacity of giving pain. The light heart which had prompted the gay reparted became loaded with sudden depression, and the frolic smile vanished with the unaffected

vivacity which had given it birth. at bed tolino .

The world had much to fay on the adventures of this evening. Poor Arabella! every body

table; and declared, that he never visited was very forty for her. Lady Monteith had certainly spirited away her lover. Her exultation upon the occasion was rather too marked for a woman of prodigious decorum; and really, if the did continue to flirt it fo notoriously in public, the must renounce her pretentions to fuch very strict propriety, and confent to be thought no better

ments drag heavily, and it was algood ratto nath At coming out of the opera Fuzosborne tapped lord Monteith upon the shoulder, and asked him, how he disposed of himself for the evening. " At home, if you have nothing better " to propole:" was the answer. "There is a " spirited set just gone to Brookes's," continued Fitzofborne; "fuppose we follow them to ob-" ferve manners and characters." His lordship

had no objection.

Early in lord Monteith's life his name was unfortunately familiar to the frequenters of the gaming-table and the heroes of the turf. His attachment to the lovely Geraldine leffened that dangerous propenfity; and, though the had failed in her endeavours to inspire a love of elegant pleasures, indifference for his former pursuits had gradually increased to disgust: the less pernicious sports of the field, and a boyish turn of amusement, fucceeding in occupying a mind too volatile to feek pleasure out of its own resources, But fince his lordship's difgust and forbearance arole more from the absence of temptation than from any fixed principle, the fight of the cardtable and the rattle of the dice-box excited paffions which increased the unsubdued emotion that he had felt at the opera- jingib ym ggdor ythalg ?

He proposed to Fitzosborne to form a party. Edward pleaded a total want of skill; protested, that he had a fixed abhorrence of the gamingst friends. table :

TALE OF THE TIM

table; and declared, that he never visited those scenes, except to study the human character, and to moralize on the satal effects of the impetuous passion of avarice. His reflections were soon similarly that evening, for in a little time he proposed himself wearied with the scene, and he proposed to lord Monteith that they should retire to a private room. There too he selt the moments drag heavily, and it was mutually agreed to enliven them by a friendly game at piequet.

The stake first proposed was tristing. Mon-

The stake first proposed was trisling. Monteith was imsuccessful. He transferred his latent resentment to the cards, which he stamped under his soot; called for a new pack, and insisted upon doubling the sum they played for. The events of the evening put several hundreds into Fitzosborne's pocket; and his success might still have been greater, but neither his friendship nor his honour would (he protested) permit him to urge his good fortune any surther. "Your temper," said he, "is too warm; and I hope the little vexations of this evening will continue you of the necessity of self-control, or at least prevent you from trying your chance with those who might take the ungenerous advantage of your agitation, which I scorn to "use."

"I value not money," faid Monteith angrily; "nor can the curfed cards agitate me. A "truce with your morality, therefore, Edward; "when I want a monitor, it is time enough for you to invest yourself with that dignity."

"I am not in a refentful humour," returned Fitzosborne smiling. "I shall therefore very "gladly resign my dignity, as you term it. In- deed, I have been a little unlucky in the exer- cise of it this evening. Yet if my well-meant admonitions are but remembered by my

friends, the difinterestedness of my attachment will enable me to support a little transient acria mony."

Where elle did you play the lecturer?" in-

quired Monteith, carelessly.

Where I faw a little impropriety," replied Fitzofborne, with suppressed fignificance.

"And did you succeed no better than you have done with me?" continued the earl, with increasing anxiety. I don't know. The character I had to deal

" with was more guarded than you are."

"What caused your reproof?" said his lordthip, with affected ease, and apparently occupied

in forting the cards into three divisions.

" I believe nothing but too great nicety of my own feelings; for on reviewing the affair I cannot see any thing effentially wrong; and

"I begin to think those rules which impose

" fuperior caution on persons who are objects. " of public admiration unnecessarily fevere."

The fentiments of ladies," refumed Monteith, " are generally more delicate in these points than those of men. Suppose you make Geral-

you if you went too far in your admonitions."

"By no means," faid Fitzosborne, fnatching. the cards. " Come, enough of one subject.

Shall we have another game?"

"No! I am tired; and as I love to have every doubtful business cleared up, we will go home to supper, and I will mention your uneafiness

to fady Monteith, that you may fleep with a

" difburdened conscience."

Fitzosborne started. "How came you to dis-" cover, that the hasty opinion which I injudiciously uttered, really displeased her? Let me

" conjure you, my lord, by all our friendship,

« endea-

" endeavour to restore me to her favour, and be convinced that I can only have forfeited it through inadvertence.

Lord Monteith smiled with the conscious superiority which attends a successful feint, and affured the alarmed Fitzofborne, that, if he would candidly acknowledge the nature of his offence,

he might depend upon his interpolition.
"It really," returned Edward, "was nothing of consequence. You have often charged me " with possessing a stoical sternness, and I con-

" fels fome of my notions are austere. The " countefs was in very lively spirits this even-

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" ing." (aid Monteith, biting his lips... " I said something to her, I forget what, re-" specting the ease with which British matrons-

publicly permit the advances of notorious libertines. I beg your pardon, Monteith, I know " he is your friend; but I must own, I repeated

" this with more energy when fir Richard Ver-

" non came into the box. You know his noti-

" ons are avowedly licentious."

"It was very friendly of you," exclaimed his lordship, with a voice convulsed with passion. " Did he talk to lady Monteith in an improper " flyle?"

" By no means. Yet there was somewhat. " freer in his address than I should have approv-" ed had the lady been my wife; and I felt for

" my absent friend. The blaze of your Geraldine's charms, my lord, is lost upon me.

Reauty can never more affect my heart. But "I too well recollect the emotions it has caused. " not to wish fir Richard to avoid lady Monteith, at least if he respects his own tranquillity."

And could Geraldine refent your friendly "observation?" interrupted Monteith. "She

"She only answered, that I was grown sple-"netic;) for public places fanctioned these intru-"sing it however observed; that she did not "speak to me any more during the whole even-"ing." how winted whose live and but

" I detest caprice. She shall acknowledge

" the friendlines of your motives."

"Oh! for heaven's fake! do not interfere in that stile. You will alarm her pride, and fink me for ever in her opinion. Beside, you will utterly prevent any future effort on my part gently to restrain those very agreeable spirits which may be liable to misconstruction. To own the truth, I thought to-night she attracted marticular attention."

"Particular attention,"

"Fler prudence," exclaimed the earl, who, though he had imbibed the poilon of infinuation, was yet offended by a direct attack, " is as ex-

" emplay as her character is spotles."

"True," replied Fitzosborne, "but think of

" the malignity of the world."

" Who dares to impeach her conduct?" con-

tinued her lord, with increased violence.

"What does not envy and calumny dare?" cried the fentimental torturer. "But I fee my friendship is troublesome. However, Monteitly, recollect, that you artfully wound the secret out "of me, and therefore have no right to be dis"pleased at the disclosure."

"Your hand, Edward. Excuse my warmth."
My wife is too dear to me, to allow me to hear

" the least censure cast upon her behaviour with indifference. I venerate the excellence of

" your heart, and I love your frankness. I am

" frank myself, though I own I did use a little" circumlocation to discover what you certainly

"never intended me to know. I was too fub-

havour of that adventurer whose course (narked

eamir and to alar was grown fple-

the there. Was I not ! But come think no comore of it. Perhaps lady Monteith might be a little wrong but I know your both meant

" well, and the will readily forgive you." Then, as a pledge of your renewed effect, " let me entreat you never to mention this affair to her!" I may have been too fusceptible, and have militaken her filence for referements for I am convinced I milconstrued her preceding

success or event any future effort rooivalled and

Monteith pledged his honour for fecrecy, and endeavoured to diffipate his chagrin by humming an air. But the idea that Fitzosborne had feen fomething wrong in Geraldine, and his recollection of the stranger's conversation, funk deep into his mind, and clouded the gay vacuity of his thoughts with spectres fearful as "the greeneyed monster" which haunted the frank and noble Moor, who, like lord Monteith, " thought " men honest who but seemed to be for" as Who dates to imprach her concuct, I con-

friendship is groublesome. Howevery Monteinly recalled, that Ale a Traky Hrand the fecret out

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anged her lord, with increased violence.

of the restallatetore have no right to be dif-No might nor greatness in mortality Can Cenfure 'leape; back-wounding Calumny The whitelt virtoe flrikes, sol oot a stiw vivi

diw moregaed radiogu fico au Swar esprante. "

indifferences, I suggestate the excellence. VICE always appears to be more alluring when its machinations are crowned with fuccels. During the dangerous period of youth, while the passions are warm, the imagination lively, and the judgment weak, the spectator feels a bias in favour of that adventurer whose course (marked

by ingenuity) leads to a speedy attainment of his defires But could inexperience reflect, and inipetuolity paule, the couch of even the most profperous villain would present no alturing spectacle. Fitzosborne's plans had hitherto answered his withes. His specious manners had acquired the esteem of the countess and the unbounded confidence of her lord ... He had obtained a firm footing in the family a had fown the baleful germ of fuspicion, so fatal to domestic peace; and the displeasure and gloom which occasionally pervaded lord Monteith's countenance convinced him that it had taken root. Calumny was prepared to doubt the stability of Geraldine's honour; and calumny, like a pestilential blast, can taint the innocence it affails. To these engines of seduction might be added the fophistical principles of false philosophy, which, though cautiously administered and often rejected, still, like the delved mine, peffels a power capable of subverting the firmest moral virtue, if not founded on the rock uke's tentiments were known to noigilar to

Yet Fitzosborne was wretched. The atrocity of his defigns haunted his pillow, not with a fense of remorfe, but with the apprehension of danger. The fituation of the lady was exalted; her character was exemplary; her connexions were respectable; her husband, as he had lately difcovered, was not only tenacious of her reputation, and vain of her attractions, but also conscious of her merits, and fincerely attached to her person. Though the earl's apprehension was peculiarly flow, his passions were as remarkably vehement; and his skill at the various offensive weapons was so great, that his opponent could have very little chance of escaping with life, if called to make the amende bonorable. Fitzosborne's fortunes were almost

fherefore, to point out the necessity of applying his ingenuity in devising some plan of improving his circumstances, instead of wasting his talents in a pursuit which only promised danger, or, to speak according to his ideas, "barren honour."

Notwithstanding the appearance of open hostility, he held a private correspondence with the viscount's family and this dintelligence from thence confirmed his own opinion, that the breach with lady Arabella was not totally irreparable.-Her vexation at his attention to lady Monteith was too lively to be concealed, and too fincere to vield to the hopes which the noble duke's increafing admiration inspired. In vain did the recollect detecting him incognito at the theatre, looking at her through his opera glass. In vain did the remember her more splendid triumph, when he presented her with a ticket for lady Fillagree's fancied ball, inscribed "To the fairest." Fitzofborne faw his affiduities without emotion. The noble duke's fentiments were known to be inaufpicious to marriage; and no lady, who had not absolutely determined to be a duches could even affect to find fatisfaction in his conversastuation of the lady was exalted a tion.

Fitzosborne poized the chance of lucrative advantage with precision; and as he had no inclination for sleeping in the bed of honour, he bestowed some forethought on the hazards he ran by pursuing his illicit designs against the lovely counters. Since he deemed his success certain, it was unnecessary to examine the effect of a disappointment. Great prudence, great caution, and great morality, might prevent a rencontre. He might be unwilling to lift his arm against the life of his friend; he might respect the laws of his country;

or his health might impose the necessity of a tour for its refloration. The last step would be the most convenient, in case lord Monteith applied for legal damages, fince, however large the fum given by the verdict, ablence and incapacity would be a receipt in full. The next step of the injured husband must be a divorce, and the deferted lady could not object to taking refuge in a fecond marriage, which was the only chance of refloring her again to the world, if not with untainted, at least with a convalescent character. Geraldine was an heirefs, and it was to be suppofed that her fettlements were made with proper precaution. Even as a wife the was infinitely more defirable than Arabella; and, though the illiberality of hulbands might wish to secure their domestic possessions by an impassable inclosure, modern spirit had proved itself able to surmount every fence : and the lady might give away herfelf and her property feveral times over, without calling upon death to cancel a former bond. The world indeed would at first be angry; but the times were very liberal, People would allow for the force of irrefiftible temptation. They would plead. that it was impossible to forbear adoring such a charming creature. The blame would be happily transferred to my lord, who ought never to have admitted a friend into his family, or to have trusted her out of his fight; and in a little time every body would vifit Mr. Fitzofborne and his lady, and perhaps even find them out to be a very worthy and exemplary pair.

Confirmed in his deligns not more by his own infidious inclinations than by the falle notions which prevail even amongst the more principled part of that important circle called the great world, Fitzosborne prosecuted his nesarious

plans;

plans; and he determined, that if fear, or as he falled it prudence, did not check, compunction should not diffuade. Chance, and the creditions confidence of Lord Monteith, favoured his wishes. Cards of invitation to lady Fillagree's petit foupe had been fent to the Monteiths, and the counters had not only chosen her character, but the had also decorated an Italian tiffany with festoons of violets, in which dress the intended to personify the Perdita of Shakespeare. Her anxious entreaties had prevailed upon her lord to accompany her in the habit of the royal Florizel; and this mark of attachment on her part, and condescention on his promised the renewal of domeffic harmony. The expected evening approached, when a note from the minister requested lord Monteith's attendance in the house of peers. Business of great importance was to be agitated; a violent opposition was expected; and the honour of his lordship's support would confer a lasting obligation. The earl was not in the habit of courting ministerial favour; he disliked the talk of attendance; and the labour of liftening to a long debate was always sufficiently terrific to make him prejudge the question. Yet though no one ever took less pains to acquire real authority, he was very well pleafed to be thought a man of consequence; and the minister's request was too profling to be declined. Geraldine wished to give up her engagement; but my lord had fixed upon a plan that would fettle every thing, and to which his own diflike of marked balls and fancy suppers gave a determinate stability. It was, that Fitzosborne, instead of spending the evening alone in the library, should be her escort. My lord's dress would fir him pretty exactly, and Edward's excuses answered the end Vol. II. for

for which they were designed, which was to fix my lord most positively in his determinations.

The entertainment was to be given at a villa a little distance from town. Geraldine dressed early; but her heavy heart feemed to anticipate fome difastrous issue. My lord came into her dreffing room to fee if the looked her character; and while he contemplated the simplicity and exquifite adaption of her ornaments, the apprehenfions with which he had been lately tortured returned. " Do not," faid he, "dance with "Vernon, nor any of that fet, if they should ask " you. Plead that you are engaged to Fitzofborne, or elfe tay that you are tired." borde

Will not that have a " fingular appear-

ance?" inquired the countefs, 1 197 : 3000 !"

You have a ftrange apprehensiveness of fin-" gularity, Geraldine. Don't you remember

vour father's words, that there is no shame in being the only person who acts as the ought to

ee do ?"

"Suppose then," said her ladyship, "I do not

dance at all." improved guille world knows that you are very fond of dancing? Is that the way to avoid lingularity? " And why this aversion to my friend? Cannot you forgive him for offering you some advice which you was too care-

" lets to attend to !" at a dr' I diname M dA " My dear lord, there has been some little

of milunderstanding, certainly. Jam far from it having any aversion to Fitzosborne, and ast far

a from being offended at his giving me any ad-" vice. I do not even recollect the circumstance."

"O! you give it that turn, ide you? But " you understand my present prohibition, I sup-

pole, and you will remember it."

" Undoubtedly.

S Undoubtedly And do you recollect, that " depending upon your accompanying me, have not formed any party. If possible come Maway from the house, and join me at Rich-

191" You are grown a coward, Geraldine. "However I will come, if I can; but Fitzol-"borne is furely a fufficient guard. Tell Arabella to do that worthy fellow juffice, or I

55 shall difown her for thy fifter."

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The vivacity of lady Monteith had received fo fevere a check that the could not recover her fpirits during her ride to lady Fillagree's. Fitzosborne discovered her dejection. "I know," faid he, " fuch solitude is often very trouble-" fome; yet the fervency of my friendship will 4 not permit me to fee you dispirited without en-" quiring into the cause of your depression."

"It is fo wholly feminine," returned the, 55 that it is absolutely undefinable, and mult be " fet down in the catalogue of my unaccounta-45 bles, unless I should give as a reason, what I " am very unwilling to admit; I mean, an idea " of my lord's, that some time or another I did 55 not treat your good advice with fufficient de-55 ference. Pray, Fitzosborne, when did you "play the moralift; and when was I fuch a re-

"fractor vepupite though to he will and

" Ah Monteith! this is one of thy misconcep-Mitions I will explain the whole affair, ma-"dam, though it is too ridiculous to merit repe-"tition. You recollect the night we were to-" gether at the opera." Deby 18 2 19 19 w. 59 n Renfectly 31 to 12 of ashe to a object of

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And that in return to some observations " which I made on the behaviour of lady Aranon such show stored Biz have been summe wibella, I be home a carbon to perfect adoubled by

affembly; while his coachman quakes in the w bella, you faidy disappointment had made, me " florent listhe cruelty of a M 25 oisoueld 12

a living body is united to putridity "cob I. Lord Monteith heard your answer as he en-" tered the box3 and he will perfect in his opi-

" nion, that my expressions were pointed at you, " as a reproof for fomething in your manner to

" Vernon. I mult excuse him by saying, that " he was a little flastered of I followed him to

" Brookes's, where we foon adjusted "

"To Brookes's! Does my lord frequent of the fule of thitue! !! !!

" Brookes's?"

" O you tempter! No; I have too much honour to reveal fecrets. The affair was foon

" explained, I was going to fay ; for Monteith " really has a very good heart, which excuses a

Geraldine coloureds but her Proteus compa-

ce little accidental puzzle-patedness."

nion gave her no time to refent. Looking out of the chariot window, he relapted into fentiment. See, dear lady Monteith," faid he, "how the a giddy throng halten to this fellival of oftentaw tious vanity. A reflecting mind, on contemof plating this crowd of carriages, must feel other " fensations than those of pleasure. Not to mention the fufferings of thefe noble animals who draw the vehicles of tyrant man, the figuation of mafter and fervant, as exhibited upon the prefent occasion, is enough to cure the most a obdurate heart of its partiality for those distinc-"tions of rank which corrupt fociety now exhibits. How repugnant to the feelings of univerfal love is that pale emaciated footman, who,

exposed to the inclemency of the seasons, sufpends the flambeau over the carriage of his voat luptuous master! How remote must that man

" still be from the ultimate perfection of his na-

" ture,

" ture, who can enjoy the pleasures of a crowded affembly, while his coachman quakes in the warping wind, or shrinks beneath the pelting from! It is the cruelty of a Mezentius: The living body is united to putridity."

faid the counters; " and it behoves us as indiwiduals to lessen the evils of that inequality which public good requires." The carriages now stopped; and as hirzosborne led her to the gay assemblage of beauty, fancy and elegance, her restections on his character concluded with an observation, that "his very failings leaned to

the fide of virtue."

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The ball went on very much like other balls. Sir Richard Vernon and feveral gentlemen of his cast of character were present, and Geraldine complied punctually with her lord's injunction, either to fit down, or to dange with Fitzofborne. She had forgot to account for his appearing in a dress so correspondent to her own; and when fome ladies, by pointing it out, alarmed her fenfa of propriety, her explanation was embarrafled, and confequently fulpicious. As at the opera, Titzofborne's attentions were confined to her; and his elegant address and polite vivacity added the facer of envy to the whisper of detraction. Dady Arabella had indeed the honour to move down one dance with the duke; but his grace was To fatigued by the exertion, that he was obliged to renounce dancing, and to have recourse to Callino for the reft of the evening. Her succeeding partners ranked no higher than commoners without possessing any of the innate distinctions which gave celebrity to the partner of Fitzolborne. He had only bowed to her in the most distant manner possible. Her sinile of invitation 2EW Juptuous malter | How remote must that man

full be from the ditinuate perfection of his na-

was manswered; and she began to think a fainting fit was the only chance of rousing the monster's attention. She performed it in the greatest
perfection; but on opening her eyes she felt a
little mortification to find, that neither he nor the
countess appeared in the circle which had gathered round her. Another glance convinced
her, that they were not in the room.

The heat of this apartment," faid the lovely fufferer, is inflipportable. Do, my dearest larriet, lend me your arm, and let me breath a little pure air in the vestibule. The viscountess complied, and the missers of the ceremony with several other ladies accompanied the fair invalid.

Lady Arabella cast a scrutinizing glance upon the suite of chambers through which she was led; but she descended into the vestibule without making any discovery. It had been converted into an orangery for the occasion, and decorated with a variety of lamps tastefully suspended. The many-coloured light trembling on the fragrant exotics, the freshness of the air, the stillness of the scene, and the extensive view which it admitted of the walking in brightness," afforded a striking contrast to the glittering but artificial scene which they had just left. Lady Arabella and her friends were not the only admirers of its enchanting effect, for at the upper end stood the counters and Fitzosborne.

re Pray let us go back," Inricked lady Arabella, who however did not much doubt their identity. "I am quite frightened. Somebody is
there." The lady of the house declared, that
it could be nobody whom the could object to,

while the charitable viscountess whispered " that

" it would be rude to interrupt a private party." "
" O! not for the universe," exclaimed Aran
bella. I would die a thousand deaths rather than " be rude."

The countels advanced with an air of easy dignity, which the inquilitive looks of the other ladies foon discomposed, "Bless me," fister," faid the candid Arabella, "I really did nor think " it was you."-" And Edward too," continued the fignificant lady Fitzofborne; "how do you " do? There is no fuch thing as catching your attention for one moment this evening. How came your aufterity to condescend to visit these

" tinfel amusements?"

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"Pardon me, madam," faid Edward, bowing respectfully to lady Arabella, " those amusements cannot be tinfel which have the power of attracting sterling merit." Her ladyship did not deign to take the least notice of his submission, but continued whispering the counters: "So you have one constant cecifbeo I fee, and Monteith " stays at home. Very singular, I vow. But was you not afraid of taking cold during this " long convertation?"

"No," replied Geraldine with recovered composure; our conversation was too interesting "for me to think of cold. What if I should tell you, Arabella, that some part of it related to yourself. "But you really treat your faithful wain's advances in too contemptuous a stile for me to begin my requested intercession, or even to deliver to you a mellage from your

" brother on the same subject."

The party had now re-entered the house, when the countels, turning, faid to Fitzosborne, "You " forget Miss Parker." - " Where is Miss ParMoker d' was the general tinquiry. 1991 In the torangery, I faid lady Monteith & No, may damy I am here, echoed a fhrill voice, which issued from one of the ladies who accompanied lady Arabella.

"Miss Parker could not have been left in the "orangery," observed the viscounters. "Your ladyship was certainly mistaken. She came

her down fairs with us toh nwo red to nweb and

"And she was the first who supported me when I fainted," said lady Arabella, who, in her eagerness to detect a supposed criminal, forgot, that fainting people do not always know what passes.

" She accordingly accompanied me into the

" orangery," repeated lady Monteith.

Miss Parker, who was no other than the "an"tiquated belle" at the opera, now came forward, and with a respectful curtesy begged leave
to explain: "I certainly accompanied your lady"ship and Mr. Fitzosborne down stairs, when"you did me the honour to ask me; but while
"your ladyship was engaged with him in look"ing at the stars, I found it was very cold, and I
"was afraid of my old attack in my shoulder;
"so I thought I would step and setch my pellice;
"and I believe your ladyship and the gentleman
"were too much occupied to perceive that I was
"gone."

A farcastic smile, which lady Fillagree's politeness could scarcely restrain her from joining, sollowed this narrative, when Edward, like Joseph Surface, promised to give a full and satisfactory account of the matter. He said, that on his mentioning that he had observed a beautiful Jacobea lily in sull blow as they entered, lady Monteith and Miss Parker had expressed a wish to pay it

more

more attention; that he had the honour to effort them; and that, after admiring the flower, her ladyfhip was suddenly struck by the splendor of some particular constellations; when lady Arabella entered.

Another general smile ensued, and Geraldine, no longer able to tally her spirits, ordered her chariot; and, telling Miss Parken she would set her down at her own door, she relieved the ladies from the pain of suppressed merriment, by taking leave. A plast biss harman belongs a factor of second and second a plant of the ladies and second a plant of the ladies and second a plant of the ladies and second as a ladie of the ladies and la

of the accomply accompanied me into the officer, "AyLit's AyH 12 with.

ear, tear through people do not always know

Conscience, what art thou? Thou tremendous power!
Who dost inhabit us without our leave;—
How dost thou light a torch to distant deeds!
Make the past, present, and the future, from the How, ever and anon, awake the soul, a believe the As with a peal of thunder leave and allowed the state and a Young.

was afraid of my old attack in my shoulder.

The Eupposed secret, mentioned in my last Chapter, was of too much importance to be confined to the discoverers. By means of the happy art of innuendoes, the initiated soon disseminated it through the whole circle, in the politest manner imaginable. One lady observed, that the adventures of the third Eloisa would soon be published: another affirmed, that it would be called Wester the Second, with a different catastrophe: a third wished to read the Chapter on Botany:

a fourth thought that that on astronomy would contain the most assorishing discovery: a fifth B 3 allowed,

allowed, that aftronomy and botany were both very fuitable studies for shepherds and shepherdeffes; and every body hoped that the adventures of the poor little lady, who had loft her pellice, and got the rheumatism, would be inserted. The farcasms of the viscounters were peculiarly piquant; for hers was the most suspected character in company; and it is an invariable rule with ladies of her caft, that the odium with which you bespatter a neighbour's reputation has a retroactive effect in furbishing your own. Her indignation was chiefly pointed at lord Monteith, who, the faid, was certainly anxious to obtain the honour of being a cornuto; and her idea was thought to be the more judicious, as it was known to correspond with the sentiments of the noble viscount her husband. Envy, idleness, the love of faying good things, and a dearth of conversation, affisted her to propagate the story. For two days the town talked of nothing elfe, and every relater could add circumstances of fresh atrocity. In two days more, the truth of thefe adventitious circumstances became doubtful, and, being proved unfounded, the whole fabric fell with them to the ground. At the end of the week every bodywas heartily forry for the dear milrepresented countels; and every body, forgetting the part they had themselves taken, heartily wished that some law might be invented to prevent defamation.—But to return to the object of these inquisitorial proceedings. aid the the

The lovely Geraldine plainly perceived the malicious explanation that had been given to an incident which Fitzosborne had faithfully explained. The love of diffinction was, as I have before observed, one of her ruling foibles; but she fought to gratify it by the noblest means. Her

spotless

spotless fame added luftre to the splendor of her talents and the attractions of her beauty. She had ever been named as one of those few, who, in a degenerate age, afforded a happy instance of the possible union of propriety and fashion. To have the goodly edifice which she had reared with fuch affiduous care at once destroyed; to have her unfullied name become the jest of witlings and the affociate of wilful depravity, was infupportable. Even supposing that the candid hearer would reject the calumnious affertion, the could not endure the very idea of having her character exposed to suspicious discussion. She sat silent in the chariot, the tear of anguish stealing down her cheek, incapable of attending to Mils Parker's narrative, whose regret about the pellice furnished her with a subject of lamentation till they arrived in town.

Fitzosborne read lady Monteith's sentiments. He rightly judged that this keen sensibility would prove injurious to his audacious designs; and he determined to exert his insidious arts to subdue it. The earl was not returned from the House. The countess wished him good night, and passed on to her dressing-room. Fitzosborne sollowed her to the door. "Excuse my anxiety," said he; "your look does not indicate a wish for repose. "Will you allow me to sit with you till Monteith "returns?" She replied, that she was not in spirits for company; and after a pause, "It is in "vain," said she, "to disguise my feelings, Fitze ofborne; and you know the cause of my ditters."

"I know nothing that can justify, or at least deserve, those tears. Dearest lady Monteith, for Heaven's sake, conquer that emotion, which increases the misanthropy I long have selt at

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" the narrow prejudice land illiberality of the " world."

"You are always tilting against those wind-" mill grants," returned Geraldine with a languid Inile. "It is of the spirit of detraction and in-" confiderateness that I complain; of that cruel " levity, which sports with what is dearer than

" life."

"Nay, now you urge your fentibility too far. " It is weakness, nor delicacy, to put our hap-

" It is weakness, not denetely of others. Have " conscious mind is its own awful world?"

" I grant its propriety only with respect to the " tortures of guilt; for can innocence be infen-

" fible of the value of reputation?"

" It may difprove flander by despising it, and " by acting with marked contempt of its petty. " machinations. The tale you feem to appre-

" hend is too poor, too contemptible for belief.

"I have but one fear respecting its public excom what motive up you tet study

What fear to's meet no Y

" If lord Monteith should hear it."

If he should, what have I to dread?"

"The warmth of his character; his irritable

er impetuolity; his suspicious-

" Suspicious, did you say? How must I be " degraded, Mr. Fitzosborne, in his opinion! "To suspect me after sour years experienced " confidence! And what must the world think d of me, if even my first, my dearest triend

" doubts my reclitude?" "I know that angels are not purer; and when

Monteith recollects himself, his judgment will it tell him the same. He is now a little warped; " an unhappy ill-grounded apprehension-a smo-

" thered spark nearly extinguished by reason, " which which this ridiculous flory may revive; and " fulpicion in a character like his must be terri-" ble."

Geraldine leaned almost fainting against the wainfcot. A deadly paleness was diffuled over her intelligent face, and her heart panted with apprehensive terror. None, except a Domitian or a Fitzofborne, who delight in torture, but

must have pitied her agonies.

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The traitor did indeed affect to pity. He dropped upon his knew, and uttered every rhapfodical expression which the most guileful art could dictate. " Dearest lady Monteith, for "Heaven's fake be composed my tortured heart " bleeds to fee your anguish-most injured-" most lovely sufferer—Oh richly worthy of a " better fate-Impart your anguish to the faith-" ful friend who would die to relieve it,"

The last words recalled her recollection. " Rife, fir," faid the with becoming dignity. a My fituation does not call for the active offices of friendship. You say I am injured. In " what? From what motive do you torture me. " with suspense? You feem to possess some fatal ce fecret respecting me. If I ought to know the " evil you allude to, tell me at once, that I may arm my foul with fortitude to fuftain my trials, or detect the calumny which sports with

" my peace."

Edward was disconcerted. He had hoped that to much friendfhip might have surprised her into a little acknowledgment. And he perceived with regret that many a fummer's fun must still rife to mature his villany. He had never yet encountered the reliftance of a firm superior mind, or to strongly seen the "loveliness of virtue in "her own form," or "felt how awful goodness " it is not a produced appropriate the produced appropriate in the color of the c second spark nearly extinguished by reasons

Darkness, "he pined not at his own loss."

The fophists, who in these evil days are fallely called enlightened, affect not to palliate their own vices by pleas of necessity and frailty, whatever difguife they may assume to expedite their fuccels with others. Aspiring to a pre-eminence in impiety, which former times feared to arrogate, they fin upon principle, promulgate systems to justify iniquity, and proscribe repentance by a morality which overturns every restraint, and a religion that prohibits nothing but devotion. Combining Pagan superstitions with the exploded reveries of irrational theorifts, they place at the head of their world of chance a supine material God, whom they recognife by the name of Nature, and pretends that its worship superfedes all other laws human and divine. By the fide of this circumscribed Deity they erect the idol shrine of its vicegerent, Interest; by the monstrous doctrines, that " whatever is profit-" able is right," that " the end fanctifies the "means," and that "human actions ought to " be free," they diffolve the bonds of fociety; and, after conducting their bewildered fullowers through the mazes of folly and guilt, in fearch of an unattainable perfection, their views terminate at last in that fallacious opiate which infidelity prefents, " the eternal fleep of death."

When posterity shall know that these principles characterise the close of the eighteenth century, it will cease to wonder at the calamities which history will then have recorded. Such engines are sufficiently powerful to overturn governments, and to shake the deep-sounded base of the sirmest empires. Should it therefore be told to suture ages, that the capricious dissolubi-

lity fif not the absolute nullity) of the nuptial tie and the annihilation of parental authority are among the blasphemies intered by the moral infructors of these times: should they hear, that law was branded as a vain and even unjust attempt to bring individual actions under the refirictions of general rules that chaftity was defined to mean only individuality of affection; that religion was degraded into a fentimental effusion; and that these doctrines do not proceed from the pen of avowed profligates, but from persons apparently actuated by the defire of improving the happiness of the world: should, I say, generations yet unborn hear this, they will not ascribe the annihilation of thrones and altars to the successful arms of France, but to those principles which, by diffolving domestic confidence and undermining private worth, paved the way for universal confusion.

Stimulated by that zeal for making profelytes, which marks the missionaries of these doctrines, Fitzosborne had hoped to goad his victim into the fnares of infidelity by the corroding pangs of previous guilt. Her unaffected agony at the idea of her hulband's doubting the propriety of her conduct and the rectitude of her heart, could only be inspired by connubial tenderness and real delicacy. The blush of generous indignation which kindled upon her cheek at the supposition that Edward's infinuations might proceed from finister views, and the calm contempt with which fhe treated the little arts of feduction to which female vanity has fometimes yielded, convinced him that all his attempts to overturn her highfeated honour would be ineffectual, unless he could weaken the bonds of conjugal attachment, or remove the ftrong bulwark of conscious immortality.

mortality, which gave energy to her principles and stability to her virtue. Her mative fagucity affured him, that all these attempts must be made with caution; but his poisonous nostrums, once introduced, would work with filent vigour. If the conflict of the passions should not be sufficiently flormy in her temperate mind to erafe the belief of future retribution, her thirst after knowlege might entangle her in metaphysical subtilties. The love of distinction and the allurements of example might induce her to add one more to those courageous females who conceive that the character of a woman is not entirely divested of weakness till she defies Omnipotence; while unrequited tenderness and unrewarded defert must effrange an exquisitely susceptible heart from its unworthy mafter, and direct its affections to the specious blandishments of an unprincipled imposture. "fure what was unitae in the rep

Fitzofborne's answer to Geraldine's spirited appeal was dictated by the most consummate art. He protested that he had no feerer to divulge but what the already knew; namely, that lord Monteith had unwarily imbibed forme fulpicious apprehentions from the marked admiration which fir Richard Vernon had paid to her at the opera. and to which the incidental circumstance of her being in remarkably good spirits that evening might contribute. He scarcely wondered at his friend's alarm, when he confidered the free no-tions of the age, the baronet's libertine principles, the impetuolity of lord Monteith's temper, and his extreme fulceptibility in a point of honour, which in his opinion probaby proceeded from the warmth of his conjugal attachment. He begged pardon for too deeply lympathifing in her uncafinels, but owned that his feelings were never proof against the magic influence of semale tears. The term "injured," which he perceived had alarmed her, was heestlessly uttered, without any reference, at least any designed one, unless it alluded to those illiberal standerers who attempted to asperse a character which he verily believed was the only exception to that general carelessies of reputation too strongly characteristic of the manners of the present race of married ladies.

"Calumny, my dear lady Monteith," continued he, "is now confidered as the test of " fashion; and, instead of shrinking from its pefse tilential attack, even women of virtue conceive " a flanderous paragraph in a morning paper to " he a kind of paliport to celebrity; and, pleaf-" ed with becoming an object of general atten-tion, they wait very patiently for time to con-" fute what was untrue in the report. " extreme delicacy (for now that you are a little " recovered I cannot help remarking that it is too. " exquifitely fusceptible) and the peculiarity of " your lord's disposition make me fee the confe-" quences of this affair in a more ferious light: " than I should otherwise do: but as I am afraid. that neither of you will ever practife the philo-" fophy which I should assume on this ridiculous " occasion, I can only say, that I shall be ready "to purfue any plan you shall suggest for my " conduct. Come, clear that penfive brow; " and be convinced, that Monteith may fee other-"men admire you without supposing that you "encourage their addresses."

This speech had the desired effect. It convinced the counters that she ought to conceal from her lord every circumstance in her own behaviour which excited the animadversions of others; what confoled by the hope that his displeasure was now wholly confined to Vernon, the saw the necessity of extreme caution, less it should ultimately point at her. Her apprehensions of some criminal intention in Fitzosborne's passionate address were transient. The extreme audacity and guilt annexed to the bare idea of his having formed an illicit attachment, and the absolute impossibility of his even haping for success, persuaded her, that his passionate language was only, as he affirmed it to be, the unpremeditated sympathy of sincere friendship; and the now blushed at her own indelicacy in doubting, though but for a moment, the rectitude of his heart.

Esteem and confidence are never so powerful as at the moment of removed suspicion. She wanted an adviser and confident. Who could feem to proper to perform that office as the fagacious, sentimental Edward? The first scheme which lady Monteith proposed to stop the circulation of the flanderous tale was, that Fitzofborne should immediately leave the family. The arch-tempter immediately fignified his perfect acquiescence; but with deference stated, that in his opinion such an apparent coincidence with the prejudice of malevolence would tend to confirm its censure; and to his repeated advice to treat the whole story with indifference and bravado, lady Monteith opposed her own poignant feelings, which would never permit her to go into company while conscious that a whilper was circulated to her disadvantage. At length a compromise was agreed to between the opposite coinions, and Geraldine determined to take leave of the gay world with more than philosophic diftafte of its levity and uncharitable asperity. Forget-THEW.

Forgetting that retirement had fometimes fuggested the with of introducing her brilliant talents to the notice of more accurate observers. the envy, hatred, and detraction which impeded her careery made her again with to take thelter in the quiet undisputed superiority which Powerscourt or Monteith presented. The presence of caprice and affectation renewed her Lucy's remembrance, rendered the recollected (weetness and ingenuousness of her character still more pleafing, and frimulated her impatience to pour her forrows into the before of foothing friendthip; or to heal her corroded heart by the gentle balm of parental tenderness. The proposed alliance which had occasioned her journey to London being to all appearance entirely frustrated, the wished to return to the pleasing occupations of domestic life; and the claims of filial duty determined her to take Powerscourt in her way to Scotland. To prevent any suspicion, that her retreat was in confequence of a breach between the earl and Fitzofborne, it was proposed, that the latter should continue at Portland place till lord Monteith's parliamentary engagements terminated: and Geraldine entertained a private hope, that her lord's interest with ministry might procure some post which would tend to reconcile Edward to the fevere blow which his fortunes had received by the rejection of lady Arabella; and at the same time convince the world, that caprice was not the distinguishing characteriffic of all the Macdonald family. In og of

Fitzosborne now recurred to the conversation which had really been begun in lady Fillagree's orangery; and he debated the probable event of his renewing his addresses with so much seeming anxiety, and acted the part of the mortified swain

fwain with to much adroitness, as entirely removed every fhadow of fuspicion from lady Montenh's mind, engaged her anew in the office of a confoler, and even roufed a degree of felf-accufation at her having dared to suspect that the morals of the virtuous Edward fell short of the perfection to which they pretended. She lamented with pathetic sweetness the deprayed state of female tafte, which gave a coxcomb infinite advantage over a man of fense with the distipated belles of the day; and Fitzothorne, religning all his hopes of conjugal felicity, with a profound figh declared, that in future he must tranquillife. his troubled foul with the endearing fympathy of female friendship. He proceeded with platonic delicacy to draw the mental portrait of fuch a friend as he wished to find : carefully including in the enchanting composition every grace which Geraldine feemed conscious of possessing. Superior refinement, and an apprehensiveness of even just praise, was mentioned with emphasis: and while the orator stated the peculiar difficulty. in which this elevated fastidiousness would place a fusceptible mind, impelled by warm effeem to expressits admirrtion, yet restrained from speaking by the certainty of offending, the countels liftened with unfuspecting delight: fo true is the maxim-

And while he tells her he hates flattery, almost be She lays the does to, being then most flatter'dis

Lord Monteith interrupted the conversations at a late hour. He returned in very high spirits, not only elated by the triumph of his party, but with his own particular success; having made a neat and appropriate speech, consisting of three or four well-turned periods, which was honoured with.

with profound attention. His lordship was less quick in discovering improprieties than in resenting them when pointed out by others. Fitzofborne's litting alone with his lady, at five o'clock in the morning, alarmed him no more than Fitzofborne's efcorting her in a correspondent drefs to lady Fillagree's fancy ball. He recounted the events which had taken place in the debate with too much eagerness to litten to the narrative of her adventures. He only heard with pleafure, that Vernon paid no attention to her, and that the was perfectly in charity with her cecifbeo. So many agreeable occurrences made him readily confent to her proposal of paying her annual vifit to Caernaryon hire immediately; and he was too fincere a friend not to enter with eagerness into her plan of sendering Edward fome pecunisry services. His late display of oratorical ability feemed to enfure fuccefs; " for," faid he, " though " I want nothing from Government, why frould not my friends reap some advantage from the fatigue which I endure in the service of my country? Do you think that they dare refule me, Geraldine, when they know how much " I am courted by Opposition?" He concluded by observing, that Edward's talents would do honour to any administration. His appearing in a confpicuous line would also mortify Arabella, and convince her that the ought to have respected her brother's deeper knowledge of manners and characters, and not have difinified a lover who was infinitely too good for her.

with his own paracular (goods shaving made as near and appropriate deserting conditions of three .

exceptions were green an avidan-

cluded by a laugh at his lordfhip's flaving infitown to vindicate her character, and a fear, that fuch uncommon good-humour on his pare might.

encourage her to Yo E. A. H. Oths in her night

Meanwhile, by Pleafure's fophistry allurid, and got From the bright fun and living breeze ye stray and far in London's gloomy haunts immur'd, and Brood o'er your fortune's freedom's, health's

decay; men ediction biol red to menter

O blied of choice, and to yourselves untrue life. The young grove shoots, their bloom the fields renew,

The manfion asks its lord, the swains their friend;

While he does riot's orgies haply share,

Or tempt the gamester's dark destroying snare, Or to some courtly shrine with lavish incense bend.

AKENSIDE.

per function sudment HILE the earl of Monteith, with all the blunt fincerity of his ardent character, pursued his friendly but unsuccessful design of serving Fitzofborne, the polite circles were very merry at his lordship's expence, every one wondering that he could not fee what was so extremely visible to every body elfe. As lady Monteith had by retirement subdued the acrimony of competition, even the candour of her rivals returned, and the tide of popular opinion grew still stronger in her Large allowances were made for a little vanity and a little indifcretion. Most people sincerely believed that, after all, her marked predilection for Fitzofborne was nothing more than a harmles flirtation, perhaps entered into out of frolic, or with a view to mortify Arabella -Thefe delicate extenuations were generally concluded tounded

cluded by a laugh at his lordship's staying in town to vindicate her character, and a fear, that such uncommon good-humour on his part might encourage her to go greater lengths in her mirth than she at first intended.

The annihilation of domestic happiness opening the fairest views for Fitzofborne's success, he determined to temploy every engine for its destruction. The guarded honour of Geraldine had hitherto rejected his infinuations to the difadvantage of her lord with the warmth of confirmed affection, and the indignation which a confciousnels of the inseparable union between his reputation and her own must inspire. But various infrances had convinced him, that this " God of "her Idolatry" was vulnerable in a thousand points; eafily deceived, eafily feduced, soon irritated, and as quickly pacified. The presence of the countess, her superior judgment, and the respect for the decencies of life, which his strong attachment to her had inspired, had hitherto preferved him from any gross acts of immorality, and given a decorum to his conduct which juftified the confidence the always placed in his behavicur. Fitzosborne too plainly saw that there was no innate principle to preserve Monteub in the hour of temptation, when his guardian angel was absent from her charge. Those temptations he refolved to supply: he doubted not his own ability to environ him with fnares, from which even a firmer virtue would find it difficult to efcape; and yet at the same time to conceal his infidious interference, and to cover his machinations with the profituted names of friendship, fentiment and morality. Though lady Monteith's enlarged understanding had sufficient difcernment to discover calumny, and to treat unfounded founded fulpicions with contempt, could fhe refift the evidence of truth? or could her feeling
heart support that cruel indifference which a diffipated husband always affects to shew to the amiable wife whom he injures by his vices? Her
strong susceptibility at every circumstance which
threatened the diminution of their mutual regard
convinced him that she could not. And surely
the resentment which a young and beautiful woman must feel at such injurious negligence would
render her an easy prey to the wiles of a seducer.
To suppose the contrary, was a paradox which
his knowledge of the human character would not
admit.

It is not my intention to pollute my page by a description of those successful plans of iniquity by which Fixeofborne subverted the principles of the man who really loved him, and felt anxious to render him effential fervices. Unhappily, the world prefents too often the fpectacle of one immortal being alluring another to inebriety, or plunging it in depravity, for me to excite furprife by adding, that (uch actions are not deemed incompatible with the facred title of a friend. These seducers have not indeed always the deeper motives which I alcribe to Fitzosborne; but let it be remembered, that the principles he professed gave a fanction to his more monftrons atrocity. Private vices are public benefits. It is not a general advantage, that property should be transferred from an indolent fenfualist to an active intelligent enterprising citizen, who would turn it to beneficial purpotes? Monteith would be just as happy with his dogs and horses, the only iphere of enjoyment which his limited understanding feemed capable of relishing, though his beautiful wife, and the fair polletions with which the was endowed.

endowed, were refigned to some clever fellow who had wit enough to acquire them. Suppoling the restraint of conscience conveniently silenced by that (cepticism which is now esteemed to liberal, what other principle will you substitute to prevent such practices? Success soon reconciles the world to the prosperous villain. A little declamation will fatisfy fentiment, and even the watchful dragon of honour may be charmed to fleep by honied words. Gratitude, which used to rank next to integrity in the scale of virtues, is now, like its immediate predecellor, degraded from its proud pre-eminence. Refinement has discovered, that the giver bestows not from benevolent motives, nor from affection to the receiver, but merely to relieve himfelf from the pain of an uneasy emotion; and it has taught us to infer from these premises, that it would be weakness to feel obligation for benefits which wholly proceed from the all-invigorating principle of felf-love.

Entangled in the mazes of an illicit amour, begun in a moment of inebriety, and purfued from want of courage to be fingular, and want of energy to be firm, the unhappy Monteith beheld his present fituation with horror, and conten platel his past happiness with vain regret. If is little daughters, his Geraldine, his domestic tranquillity, his rural amulements,—how forcible was the contrast between those guiltless pleasures, and the clamour of a Bacchanalian revel, the corroding inquietude of a gaming-table, and the venul al-

Thousand after thousand vanished at these midnight orgies. The image of his injured wife and supplicating intants constantly role to his view, but they only came to increase his desperation, not to restrain his madness. The words, one wand the fair poll 3 ons with will. 16VV.

one more bottle, and another fong! What "Monteith a flincher Come, my lord, luck "mult change; make one more spirited effort:" and, " Can the dearest of men, for whom I " have refused such liberal offers, desert me?" Such expressions formed the magic spells whose powerful incantations enthralled a mind, reduced to the deplorable flate of acting the part it abhorred, and adopting the vices it despited, lest the votaries of diffipation hould suspect that he want

bish

ed courage to be wicked, and do the state severe Fitzosborne did not expose his untainted repurtation by appearing, in these scenes of depravity. He contented himself with pointing out parties which he entreated his lordship to avoid on with mentioning inflances of turprifing turns of luck at the gaming table which it would be folly in any one to expect. He exclaimed against Mrs. Harley's infamy, but acknowledged that the was in the highest falhion; that the had rejected a much larger fettlement than what the now folicited from Monteith, which he hoped his lordthip would have resolution to refuse ; and yet, after all, as the firong bias of the paffions feemed to point out that such temporary engagements were congenial to our natures, their criminality must wholly depend upon the circumscribed, and perhaps erroneous, fyttems of political jurifprus cence. He always concluded these powerful dif. . fualions by urging the peculiar feverity of lady. Monteith's principles, and the confequent necetfity of concealing his misconduct from her in He conjured him to haften to Powerscourt; and then added, what he knew would negative the propofal, " How will you support the tears and the " reproofs of that injured woman !) For I fear, " my friend, that in spite of every prudent predescripted of Figothornes " When I in H. Ch. 18.

A TALE OF THE TIMES.

"manner, and conftrained vivacity, cannot fail
of attracting her apprehensive observation."

While the cruel machinations of Fitzofborne thus affailed the honour of Geraldine by vitiating the mind of her hufband, the deftined victim of his worse than murderous deligns enjoyed the foothing confolation of pouring her forrow into feverer trials which immediately awaited her, the tranquillity of rural scenes, the benevolent simplicity of her revered father, the dignified refignation of Mr. Evans, and the interesting sweetness of the amiable Lucy, conspired to calm that painful conflict which undeferved calumny and difappointed hope had excited in her foul. The early carol of the lark, the dying fall of the nightingale, the kindling glory of a fummer's morning, the reviving freshness of the evening zephyr, the various delights which the country affords, and the attractive simplicity of its uncontaminated inhabitants, infpired lady Monteith with strong indignation against that fastidious taste which, while it degrades the majestic operations of Nature with the epithets of ordinary and vulgar, or paffes them with flupid infensibility, pursues the celebrity required by the construction of a carriage or the adjustment of a robe. Her centures against this perty ambition were, however, too warm to be the dictates of cool judgment, and evidently proved, that the fair declaimer had been once included in the frivolous groupe who pay a blind idolatry to popular esteem. Disappointment inspired other notions; and, guided by this new impulse, the appeared once in her conversations with Mifs Evans to lean to the dangerous doctrines of Fitzosborne. "When I reflect,"

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52 lather A TALE OF THE TIMES of aluce is

faid the, " on the evane cent nature of reputation; that it is acquired without folicitude, and "lost without guilt; that it is the sport of ca"lumny, and the battery from which envy mor"tally wounds the peace of innocence, I feel
"convinced that it is beneath the attention of a

"well-governed mind."

The convertation had been previously confined to the caprices of fashion, and Mils Evans
was surprised that it should produce such a serious conclusion; for to this genuine child of nature the eclat annexed to the invention of a becoming turban, or even the honour of an innumerable party, feemed unworthy of a moment's anxiety. She therefore fixed her intelligent eyes upon her friend, and alked her to what the alluded in this reflection?

" My own fad flory," faid Geraldine, " is "ever predominant in my mind. Even while I am enjoying the delights of these beloved peaceful scenes, I cannot for one moment for-" get that I am now a mark for public ridicule; " and I am endeavouring to derive fome confola-tion from those sentiments which a gentleman, " a very sensible man, and a friend of lord Mon-

"teith's, has frequently suggested."
"They can only apply," said Lucy, "to the case of those who place their ultimate hopes in " the applause of the world. They have nothing " to do with the well-grounded mind, which, " while it pursues the steady path of duty, is or pleased with being encouraged on its journey by the modest voice of well-earned praise. Far be it from me, my Geraldine, to seek to "diminish your consolations. Innocence allows you to possess a very superior one; and while your life disproves accusations, you have no " cause to be depressed. Yet the watchful suf-" ceptibility of female honour cannot but feel " every attack upon its character; and it most impatiently longs to refute the centures which a its purity abhors. Lord Monteith's friend, I " fuppole, only made general observations. He

" could not allude to your particular story." "They were the observations of Fitzosborne,"

faid lady Monteith gravely.

"Of Fitzofborne? interrogated Lucy. "I " have heard you describe him as one of the most

" enlightened, uncorrupted, and amiable of men : " the person, too, respecting whom your con-

" duct is censured."

" It is exactly as you describe. He is thus de-

" ferving, and I am fo accused."

" Does a fixed contempt for the good-will of " that mais of his fellow-creatures which is called "the world, imply this superior merit? The world, I have heard my dear father often fay " judges right, but from wrong premifes. It is " hasty and rash, not dispassionate and resecting. " It kindles into indignation at a specious tale; it " loads a suspected character with opprobrium;

but however false its inference, however mistaken its judgment, its errors always lean to the fide of justice and virtue. And I am the

" more inclined to pay a deference to my father's opinion, because I find his idea of that aggre-

e gate body of which I am an individual con-

" firmed by my own feelings," " I shall only join the general decision of the " world, which you so reverence," replied the countels, " when I found the praises of Mr.

" Fitzosborne. To the manners and the exte-" rior of the most finished gentleman, he adds

" the information of the scholar, and the profundiproyes acculations, you have no

ALE OF THE TIMES dity of the philosopher. Perhaps his ardent "inove of truth may urge him to too great a con-" tempt for established rules; and you know, "Lucy, we must not expect fuperior minds to " pay a scrupulous attention to the little puncti-"lies which cuffor exacts from ordinary cha-" racters. He is actuated by the most exalted " views, and his life is the noblest comment uptant is trying, whether the chaining sid hot ?!

The himited observation of Miss Evans had never discovered such a being as lady Monteith deferibed; and the regarded the defineation of its distinguished properties with fomewhat of the fame kind of scrupulous curiofity with which we perule the description of the unicorn and the kraken; not absolutely denying that such things may exist, but wishing to have their reality more clearly identified. Her with was foon graffied, and this human phoenix was introduced at Powerscourt by an event in which chance (the modern term for Providence) had a smaller share than oftenfibly appeared quigared and bolomar and aline

The post always arrived at fir William's in the afternoon; and though the good baronet had nothing of the ballaw in his character, and was by no means an adept in the science of politics, he constantly exercised an unlimited authority over the newspaper, the contents of which he regularly recited, in an audible voice, to the party affembled round his hospitable board. The journal of passing occurrences which found admission at fir William's, was generally uncontaminated by private flander, party abuse, or fullome panegyric, and fimply a plain narrative of the events of the day. It happened however, that after lady Monteith had fpent about four months at her fafor information was impolfished for tribed

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dity of the philosopher; Perhaps his ardent-rinduc bruckindenie and grivelled prana reference tempt for established rules, and you prints

a certain ministerial nobleman in the vicinity of " P ** ** ** Place finds fufficient attractions "in the beautiful Mrs. Harley to confoleshim

" for his recent difgrace; while a fair inconof frant is trying, whether the lecemair of othe

"C****** ** thing amountains be may not be beneficial/to a confimpi ve reputation libis

faid, that lord M***** s fettlements on his

" new flame are uncommonly liberal."

Sir William was not verted in the language of initials and afterifks; and was not in polletion of the decyphering gloffary which a knowledge of polite (candal lupplies. After two or three attempts to unrayed the enigma, he delivered it to his daughter, with a request that the would stell him what it meant, A crimfon blufh and a dying paleness alternately took possession of her face while the perused the paragraph. After coolly obferving, that it was some very ill-natured nonline, the complained of faintness from the heat of the room, a circumstance which her fireation, being hear her fourth confinement might reader oppreffive. Miss Evans's arm was ready to lead her to her own apartment, at the door of which the entreated her friend to leave her, and to fuperintend the backgammon party in her room, as the much traved the should not be able to reat fir William's, was regnineys tall William's

No alarm was excited that night by this circumfrance. Sir William's communications had been too confused to convey any explanation to his auditors, and any future appeal to the mewfpaper for information was impossible, for it had fuddenly disappeared during the bustle occasioned

by lady Monteith's faintness. But since the butlet and the housekeeper were both very great politicians, and very anxious to inspect the conduct of administration, this circumstance too frequently happened to bear at this time any mysterious air.

Geraldine's indisposition were next morning a more serious aspect. Her maid owned, that she had been extremely restless and agitated all night, and her pulse indicated considerable sever. Sir William's parental tenderness took alarm. The most eminent medical affishance which the country afforded was called in, and an express was dispatched to town to summon her husband.

The petrifying power of vice requires time before it can render the heart completely callous. Lord Monteith had not yet forgot his inimitable Geraldine, the mother of his pretty little girls, the founder of James-town, and the benign enchantress whose magic powers had converted the wild unfrequented thores of Loch Lomond into the residence of plenty, elegance, and happinels. His recollection of the guiltless pleasures once enjoyed in her fociety aggravated his fears for her lafety; nor could a thousand Mrs. Harleys detain him from her bedfide. Endeavouring by the speed of his return to atone for the criminality of his absence, relays of horses were ordered upon the road, and the exertions of the postboys were stimulated by additional douceurs. But lord Monteith is not the only furious driver that has found it impossible to travel from himfelf. New to the suggestions of remorfe, yet unable to divert the pain of its scorpion-sting by the fallacious justification of comparing his own conduct with that of other men of fashion, his troubled imagination continually placed before his

his eyes the frightful image of an amiable wife mardered by his victous indifference; and his thoughts were alternately occupied by curfing his own folly, and frantickly addressing Heaven to spare a life which he now felt to be infinitely dearer than his own.

Such a firmation called for the ameliorating offices of friendthip, and the fentimental, dispatfronate Fitzosborne had claimed that pious task. To abate the reader's indignation against that gentleman's conduct, I must affirm, that it was afterwards fatisfactorily proved, that the fatal paragraph which I have quoted was not communicated to the newspaper editor in a hand-writing that bore the teast resemblance to Edward's. will also own, that his emotions during the journey to Powerscourt were almost as poignantly diffreshing as those of his fellow-traveller. Conscience, indeed, was less loud in her accusations, because her sensibility had by frequent repression been rendered more callous. But the probable disappointment of those plans of aggrandisement which he had purfued with fuch wicked dilleence, haraffed his apprehension; and he regtetted that human science had not yet reached its summit of perfection, by prefenting to him the immortalifing elixir that would enable him to dispute with death for the possession of the victim whom he had marked for a more dreadful destination.

postboys were is mulated by ladditional douceurs. But lord Monte thus not the only furious driver that has found it impossible to cravel from himtelf. New to the ingestions of remorie, yet made no custer the pain of its temploh-sting by the fallations with fication of companing his own conduct with that of other wien of fashion, his conduct with that of other wien of fashion, his conduct with imagination community splaced before

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CHAP.

" (Can you tell how her illness and your infidelity can possibly be connected? If it proa ceeds from her knowledge of your weaknels, " you have certainly cause to dread seeing her.

as a much entire a your few HIS or your author

"trity as the mafter of a family, do not let even Dang'rous congeits are in their natures poisons, Which, at the first, are scarce found to distalle; But, with a little act upon the blood, Burn like the mines of sulphur.

HE appearance of lord Monteith, when the carriage stopped at Powerscourt, was sufficiently deplorable to excite commiseration even in those bosoms which felt the strongest abhorrence of his former conduct. Pale, and trembling with apprehension, he asked if his lady were still alive, On receiving an answer in the affirmative, he flew to her apartment, not reflecting upon the effect which his sudden return might have. Fitzosborne, possessed of a greater command of his own feelings, stopped him at the door, and, dragging him into an adjoining room, whitpered to him, that prudence and composure were highly necessary. " If you see lady Monteith in your present perturbation of spirits," said her " you will certainly become your own accuser, " and perhaps lay the foundation for much fu-" ture misery. Remember, possibly she knows nothing of Mrs. Harley's affair. For fhame! " my friend, how you unman yourfelf by these " emotions."

" She lives," faid Monteith, lifting up his eyes, which, to the extreme mortification of Fitzosborne, were suffused with wers. "If the " had died, murdered by my infidelity, I would

"not have furvived her."

" Can you tell how her illness and your infi-" delity can possibly be connected? If it pro-" ceeds from her knowledge of your weakness, " you have certainly cause to dread seeing her.

"I must entreat you, if you regard your repu-tation as a man of the world, or your autho-" rity as the mafter of a family, do not let even

" your valet wither your diforders and grad ...

He was prevented from proceeding by the appearance of fir William Powerfcourt, whole benevolent heart had been deeply penetrated by a description of his son-in-law's diffress, though his patern I pride had previously stimulated to refent the absence which even his unsuspicious temper had confidered to be a neglect of his beleved daughter.

"Be composed, my lord," faid the good ba-ronet, shaking him affectionately by the hand; "my dear child will do well, don't make your-"felf fo unhappy—she will be very glad to fee you, I affure you. She always names you with the greatest tenderness."

"Dear injured excellence!" sobbed Mon-

"She never made one complaint of your har! " ing to long in London," continued for William. " Sometimes, indeed, the faid, The house fits late these turbulent times. Then, "after parliament broke up, you had fome busi"nels to get through to lerve a strend. The
"physicians give us great hope of her to-day;
"and when you are a little more composed, I
"will let her know that you are come. Depend

"Reproaches," reiterated Monteith, his eyes sparkling with indignation; "I cannot bear reproaches. There of my own heart are fully.

one clandy exerciciating of I won't fee beru Order " all her how the does, without satisfy mban-

Firzofborne, who had watched every expreffrom with Terpent willness, here observed to fir William, that travelling post with ho rest, and fcarcely any refreshment; had greatly deranged his friend's mind " " And I am fearful," faid he, of fome bad effects from the indifferction of a fervant, who harried into failly Monteith's apartment to announce the early arrival.

No other hint was necessary to remove fir William; while Monteith, with clenched fift, traverfed the room in an agony which increased every moment few as to ragil gainound luol-

"Am I expected to beg pardon?" exclaimed he to Fitzosborne language or and return ?

If you go on accusing yourself, and yielding to thefe extravagancies, you invite imper-" tinence, and must expect mortification. Lady Monteith must be destitute of the ruling pasfion of her fex, if the does not make you feel

that the knows her power over you. Remorfe, -value my ford, like religion, is certainly anbufiness

Between a man and his own heart; yer, poffi-

vibad bly, as fit William lectures you upon one head, Mr. Evans may think it right to treat belle you with a little clerical freedom upon the

and which, the faid, her dear father pathead noge Ir is all known then," laid Monteith, throwing himfelf upon a fofagus and amoto be effared at by country boors as a reprobate and stiffed a sign,) was yet, the "sniffed a sign, and

"Nothing is known, or can be known, if you act with common propriety. Sir William only talks of your fraying in town, and attending parliamentary business, when you ought to have been nursing your wife in the " country.

"ask her how she does, without entirely aban"ask her how she does, without entirely aban"doning all sense of dignity. But that I scorn
in to probe a penetrated heart, I could remind
in you, that attention to my former counsels
be "would have prevented your present pangs."

fort to visit his counters. The high tone of ecstay to which his feelings had been elevated on first hearing of her safety, was now considerably lowered; and he almost wished that the sepatrating distance which he had so rapidly passed were still between them, to protect him from the soul-harrowing sight of an injured, yet still beboloved object, "Is," said he to himself, "she

"utter one severe expression; if she look at the me with less tenderness, nay, if she do but not even betray a knowledge of my folly, I am the following to be severed to the severe severe to the severe severe severe to the severe sev

His apprehensions, however, were groundless. Geraldine received him with that smile of inefable sweetness which generally irradiated her countenance. It was, indeed, no longer play-fully animated; but its pensive languor conveyed an even to his alarmed attention the idea of bodily suffering, rather than of mental anguish. After thanking him for the solicitude he had expressed, and which, she said, her dear father had pathedictically described, she congratulated him upon the birth of a son, who, though prematurely hurried him into the world by her indisposition, (here she stifled a sigh,) was yet, she was happy to find,

more likely to live in the more gratifies, the clamorous mail WWhen Providence gratifies, the clamorous at withes of us thort-lighted mortals, it must not only give us the good that we ask, but it must eat a life adapt the time of its bounty to the moment of

of our defires. Eight months ago lord Mones teith thought nothing but a fon wanting to grabe tify all his wifes. He now flarted with deep remorfe and difmay at the birth of a being, who feemed to rufh into existence to reproach him for having wasted the fair possessions to which his ancestors had left him heir, in the frenzy of the gaming table and the baunts of diffigation The too susceptible countes read in his embarraffed manner a refutation of all the hopes which a description of his lively emotions on his return had inspired. She could no longer flatter herself with the idea that envy and falsehood had fabricated the paragraph for fatal to her peace, and nearly to to her life. She covered her beautiful. face, pale as the pillow on which it refted, and, fobbing out an apology for an hysterical weakness which would not permit her to support the fight the had to earnestly defired, the entreated to be left alone. To recruit her enfeebled fpirits was the plea that the urged; but hen real defign was to lament unobserved the peculiar hardships their morals, their fortune, an estal analarquirads to

The observations the made upon her lord's character had hitherto disclosed much inconsistency, weakness, and imperfection subut the hadis ever been confoled by the conviction, that his heart retained many traits of native goodnessy and that his flormy paffions, even in their wilder eft uproar, confessed the power of her gentle influences Her delicacy thrunk at the thought of dividing his affections with a venal wanton; and the rectitude of her principles infaired the live of lieft concern, when the recollected the guilt which her ftill-beloved lord incurred by purfuing an illicit attachment. Weak in body, enfeebled in mind; reduced by fufferings, and differ fifted appointed

appointed in her dearest hopes; her pride wounded in its most fusceptible part, slighted by him whom the most withed to please ; and traduced by that world whole applause the had so seduloufly courted, what was there to bind lady Monteith to life to Surely I might now call in Area ria's daggera Portia's firebrand, or fome more fashionable quietus, with very good effect. But my heroine was a mother, and though man, poffelled of firmer nerves and a colder heart, is often unjust to female merit, and fallely supposes that name to be fynonimous with weak susceptibility, maternal feelings have frequently inspired such long-fuffering quiet fortitude as would add luftre nearly to to her life.

to the annals of a martyr.

Four innocent helpless creatures, who derived t their existence from her, raught Geraldine that the had more to do than to lie down and die. In proportion to the hazard of their being deprived. of paternal tenderness and protection, they posfeffed frenger claims upon their mother's heart, and urged her to exert every faculty to preferee their morals, their fortune, and their happiness. Hope revived with the determination of discharging these solemn duties, and whitpered, that party tience, gentleness, and undeviating rectitude of conduct, fometimes produces a further reward, 9 over and above the certain eulogy of approving i conscience. A reclaimed husband bas been reflored to virtue by the mild afforements of blameless wife; and a joyful mother bus had the glory of leading back a repentant father to his b abandoned children . " Be fuch my tot!" faid the counters. How poor is all other praise! "How contemptible every other purfuit!"

These resolutions, though formed in the secure privacy of a fick chamber, might have reappointed

began to think her mirth levity, and her 64

55

fifted common temptations; and lord Monteith. if defe conhistion in hatural character, would have evinced his penitence for his past faults by a more attentive tenderness; but Fitzosborne knew too well the advantages of difunion to permit the wounds which he had inflicted on the conjugal felicity of the Monteiths to be thoroughly healed. His influence over his lordship's mind was as unbounded as vigour, duplicity, and craft can acquire over a weak, open, unreflecting character. It had been interrupted by the strong alarm which lady Monteith's danger excited; but as the returning health of the charming countefs relieved all anxiety for her fafety, her hufband grew weary of the trouble of thinking for himself, and, voluntarily furrendering the intellectual liberty of which he was fo tenacious, permitted his false friend again, " with devilish art," to " reachs

The most accurace judges of human nature have observed, that we feldom forgive those whom we have injured; and though the word forgiveness may be here misplaced, it is certain that the pride of human nature, fond of justifying itself, always endeavours to find an excuse for its own milconduct in the behaviour of those who are sufferers from its faults. Almost persuaded that his infidelity and extravagance had escaped discovery, lord Monteith wished to silence the pain of felf-accusation by excuses better calculated to stifle remorfe than the poor apology which the more enormous guilt of others supplies. While his imagination continued to unite the ideas of Geraldine and perfection, the behaviour of his grace the duke or the most noble marquis to their respective ladies afforded no extenuation of his own folly. But when his jaundiced eye began

began to think her mirth levity, and her gravity sullenness, the load of his form guilt was at once removed. Though the opinion of the world still prescribes forbearance and decorum to the wife, it allows the husband to recriminate, and a defect in temper on the part of the lady is a received excuse for the vices of the gentleman a cruel and unjust conclusion, yet recommended by its universal prevalence to the most serious consideration of the instructors of semale youth.

Fitzosborne increased all Monteith's extravagance by faint praise, affected filence, or ftifled observations. But his chief attention was now directed to the counters. Her forced gaiety and frequent absence of mind plainly told him, that the newspaper paragraph had done its office, and he not unfuccefsfully endeavoured to communicate to her his knowledge of her fituation, and his commiseration for her sufferings. Every instance of her lord's neglect or inattention was rendered more excruciating to Geraldine by Fitzosborne's watching her countenance, or marking Monteith's behaviour by some flight fign of displeasure. In his conversations with her, he frequently introduced subjects which he knew must harrow up her soul. Reverting again to his favourite maxim, that "the con-" scious mind is its own awful world," he commented on the present perverted state of society, in which merit generally mourns in filence, from the injustice or misconception of others. The omnipotence of beauty, when united with its rare affociates sensibility and intelligence, was another favourite theme. He ridiculed the illiberality of annexing an idea of guilt to the allowable admiration of what is "perfect, fair,

began

sand good." And he continually affirmed. that minds of a superior stamp ought to shape their conduct by their own innate fenfe of decorum, and not by the rules intended for more grovelling capacities. He condemned the in-delicacy and want of tafte of many men of fashion with warmth bordering on severity, for deferting the fociety of women of refinement and information, and forming grofs attachments, in which intellect could have no fhare. But the only remedy which he could devile for this evil was, he faid, to relax, inflead of bracing, the feverity of our fystem of divorce : and he frequently concluded with expatiating upon the folly of legislators, in not accommodating their institutions to the varying humours of the people whom they mount to control. To fome of these suggestions lady Monteith's mind gave an unqualified affent. She doubted the tendency of others; but they were fo disguised in the veil of Superior zeal for the improvement and happiness of the world, and so sweetened by the adroit mixture of oblique fattery, that Ose feemed rather willing to blame the limited powers of her own understanding than to queltion the infallibility of Fitzosborne's all-fapient mind: Sir William, who was formetimes prefent at these orations, was at first extremely puzzled to know what the gentleman meant's but when he found that fomething was wrong in that palladium of justice which he had ever been accustomed to venerate, the British Constitution, and heard the proposed improvement, his full conviction of his own incapacity for fupporting an argument could searcely prevent him from telling the declaimer, that the remedy was worse than the disease, highly d. vindels coats

Fitzofborne's

Titzofborne's contempt for the disposition and abilities of fir William betrayed him into an indiference which his matterly address could fearcely repair. From his first arrival at Powerscourt he had fludied the characters of the Evans's with jealous diferimination; and as their talents and mannets were alike undifquifed. he foon found, that they would prove molt formidable opponents to his iniquitous deligns. He was, therefore, peculiarly eareful to contest from them those mesarious principles which he fancied he had fufficiently enveloped to efcape the confused apprehension of the good baronet. He was, however, completely mistaken. Sir Wik liam's ruminations on Edward's affertions difcovered confequences which were at first unperceived; and, his uneafiness increasing, he determined to disclose it to his good friend the rector, with a hope of being reaffored by his Superior Jearning pay vette and a sanday to va

At the conclusion of an unsuccessful rubber at backgammon, by way of apology for bad play, he frankly owned, that he had been thinking of something else all the time. "It is cere" tainly very wrong in me," said he, "but I almost doubt of the truth of what Solomon tells us, that there is nothing new under the fun." He then repeated Fitzosborne's theory, and added, "Is it not a new way of punishing "a man for using one wife ill, by giving him.

" leave to marry another?"

litzofborne's

Many years had elapted fince Mr. Evans's knowledge of the great world had been folely derived from the limited information of books and newspapers. The dashing spirits with whom he had been formerly acquainted sought celebrity by high phaetons, Pomona green

coats

coats, and Artois buckles; and feldom ventured upon more profound disquisitions than what were necessary to determine the height which the younger Vestris could jump, or the distance that Eclipse could gain on a dray horse in a course of five minutes. The elegant tutor was now changed into the rural divine, and, in common with all lovers of literature, he rejoiced to hear, that the frivolity of fathionable manners was yielding to a spirit of deep research and discriminating curiofity. Supposing that Philosophy still retained her character of being the handmaid of Truth, he felt inclined to pardon a few extravagancies in her admirers; and, believing the fountain pure, he repeated the popular couplet : treme to brent; talquos reluq

A little draught intoxicates the brain,
But drinking largely fobers us again.

Neither the general philanthropy of Mr. Evans's character, nor the prepoffessing impressions which lady Monteith's warm encomiums on Fitzos-borne had made upon his mind, could induce him to give a favourable interpretation to a proposition that threatened to sever the grand link which unites correct morals and social happiness. His candour could only point to one conclusion, which was, that the natural imbecillity of his revered patron's understanding increased with his years, and that the conclusion he had drawn from the arguments which Edward had used, was directly contrary to what the orator intended.

The answer which he returned to fir William was of a temporizing kind. But, after revolving the conversation in his own mind, he determined determined

inquired Mr. Evans.

11 Frere

hetermined to apply to that confidant to whom, fince deprived of a ltill dearer friend, he had been accultomed to intrust all his perplexities. He was concerned to find that Lucy's opinion of Mr. Fitzolborne was not in unifon with the fentiments of the countels. She expressed her diflike of the mysterious air which he generally affected; and observed, that Geraldine, who knew his disposition thoroughly, apologized for the eccentricity of Tome of his fentiments by urging his foreign education, and affirming that the knew he possessed the best heart in the world. "Perhaps he does," continued Mifs Evans; "but people who wish well to any " cause seldom attempt to break down the bul-" warks that defend it." Her alarmed father eagerly inquired, if the fuspected any thing deutical in his principles.

Thank God," returned Lucy, " none of my acquaintance are deitts; therefore I do " not know in what manner they would act: But furely, my dear fir, when religious " truths are impressed deeply upon a cultivated se mind, they must give a tincture to our ordi-16 nary conversation. Subjects which we efteem facred are not dragged into table-talk controverly; and the narratives of holy writ are not degraded by being drawn into a ludicrous parallel with the light events of the passing moment. But I am willing to allow " that I may be more fevere from being less " accustomed to the freedom of fashionable manners; for I observe my Geraldine, who " possesses the picty and the purity of an angel, is not hocked at this species of levity."

" Does not Mr. Fitzosborne appear to show a very marked admiration of the countess?" inquired Mr. Evans.

" Every body must admire her," returned Lucy, evading a direct reply: "I do not mean merely on account of her personal charms, " though the is now lovelier than ever, but for " her patient sweetness and her dignified refig-

" nation."

nation." and of state to the first of the Twee with all with the term refignation, my " dear," interrupted Mn Evans, Highu should " confine it to feverer trials than those which " your enchanting friend has yet been called " upon to endure. Though we have often " lamented the capricious inattention of her de lord's behaviour, it is only one of those leffer " conflicts, by which Providence mercifully w prepares us for the more excruciating struge gles that we must all sustain before we are " liberated from this world. You know whose see sentiments I now repeat. The harmonious er voice which once gave them utterance is " filent; yet the will of Heaven calls for cheer-

" ful acquiescence, and I obey." A vost or annik

Unwilling to depress her father at that moment, by repeating observations which might probably be merely the creatures of her own fancy, Miss Evans dropped a tear to her mother's memory, and was filent.

rally bave to the certy marron was freed him. this his zeat to make prof. Lete hid thrown him off his guard, and that in order to lecure one convert he multiallay the language which - a defire to white many admin or had excued He law in Mr. Py mis a man nothe tedy of a fincere, zealous, well-informed much exeationally the dupo of its own excellents, fomethat hally in its concustions, and tallioled to receive a few frong exprellions as a lair definition of tha-

CHAP.

Every body must admire her," returned Lucy, evadurg a direct reply. "I do not mean anerely on acalient of ArHeDonal charms, though she is now forelier that ever, but for

Mark you this, Baffanio;
The Devil can cite Scripture for his purpose;
An evil foul, producing holy witness,
Is like a villain with a smiling cheek;

Q, what a goodly outlide falsehood hath!

ARABREAKHBring Ifriand has vet been called

MR. EVANS was not one of those supine pastors who, contented with their own immediate security, sorbear to warn their slock of the insidious approaches of the wolf. His daughter's observations determined him to watch Fitzosborne with scrupulous attention; and, if any thing should happen to confirm his doubts, the hazard of being censured for impertinent interference would not deter him from stating to lady Monteith the danger of an intimacy with a man whose passions were not subjected by the restraints which religion imposes.

Edward seemed rather to solicit than to shun this serutiny. Some casual expressions from Sir William, and the turn which Mr. Evans generally gave to the conversation, convinced him, that his zeal to make proselytes had thrown him off his guard, and that in order to secure one convert he must allay the suspicions which a desire to gain many admirers had excited. He saw in Mr. Evans a man possessed of a sincere, zealous, well-informed mind, occasionally the dupe of its own excellence, somewhat hasty in its conclusions, and disposed to receive a sew strong expressions as a fair definition of character:

CHAP.

racter: to which was added, a confidence in its own attainments, not unfrequent in an educated person long effranged from the invigorating collision of congenial society. Edward adapted his behaviour to the rules which this discovery pointed out, and he seized the opportunity which Mr. Evans had given, by leading the conversation to the finiteness of human comprehension, to make what appeared like a candid disclosure of his sentiments.

"I perceive fir," faid he, " that you are anx-" ious to discover my opinions; and instead of " blaming, I highly admire the integrity of mind which fuch curiofity evinces. I will own, that during my relidence upon the " Continent I was somewhat tinctured with " the fcepticifu to prevalent there : and I will confels too, that the conversation of the "higher circles in my own country, and above all the manners of many of the clergy, have not tended to remove my doubts. While the " church appears to be more affiduous to de-"fend its empluments, than to promote the "Clairation of its members, no wonder if we "reject its meagre doctrines. The character of the gentleman and the divine are not often " feen in unison. If I had early possessed the copportunity of contemplating the happy mixture, religion would have appeared to me more attractive from the reflected beauty of "its ministers; but, instead of lamenting what is past, let me, by propitiating your cantlour, "improve my present happy acquaintance."

Religion," faid Mr. Evans, returning Fitzofborne's bow, "cannot really fuffer by the mif-"conduct of its officials in the opinion of any "well disposed, confiderate mind." Our at-

" tendance

" tendance at the altar does not remove us of from human temptations; and with respect to the fault to which you allude, a too great pertinacity respecting our temporal rights. " candour will remember that our possessions " are not hereditary. Most of us have united " ourselves to society by the strong ties of hus-" band and father; and the study of those di-" vine precepts which were meant to enlarge " the focial affections may, by the infirmity of " human nature, which mixes error with our fairest aims, fometimes extend to a culpa-" ble solicitude for the fortunes of those dear " connections, and abate the reliance which a " christian ought to place in the direction and " support of the friend of the friendless."

"I admit that your apology has weight," refumed Fitzosborne; "but what will you fay " of that avidity for field sports and love of " dissipation which so strongly characterise the divines of this age, and which you, fir, con-

" demn by your own example?"
" I blame every particular instance," replied Mr. Evans, "without admitting the censure to " be determinate against the whole order. We " are marked by our habits from the rest of " fociety; and the 'fox-hunting parson,' or the " infignificant ' Bob Jerome,' is pointed out to " fatire, while the pale student, who confumes " his health over the midnight lamp in the most "important researches, or the laborious in-" structor of his village flock, are prevented " by their obscurity from counterpoising the " weight of public odium by their useful un-" obtrusive virtues: but, granting the general " conduct of the clergy to be as bad as their " flanderers intimate, the service to which we Vol. II.

are confecrated partakes not of our depra-

" vity." "Perhaps not in minds endued with strong " powers of reflection," returned Fitzosborne: " but, as the christian system feems best adapt-" ed for the lower orders of fociety, it is much " to be lamented, that any thing should im-" pede its progress where it has the best chance of fuccess. Perhaps the rules by which I. " would estimate the conduct of its ministers " are too ftrict, and though, unhappily, my " own principles have inclined to deilin, I have candour enough to regret, that while " law and physic are permitted to escape un-" contaminated by the knavery of pettifoggers " or the ignorance of empirics, divinity im-" poses perfection upon its students. But our conversation is likely to be interrupted. Permit me to fay that I shall renew it with plea-" fure. I am a novice at compliment, and " shall therefore only observe in my abrupt " manner, that if the cause you support were " always as ably defended both in the pulpit and in society, infidelity would be deprived

Every one has his weak fide. Though the cup of undifguised flattery would have been rejected with distain, yet when tempered by apparent moderation, and a wish for conviction, it became tolerably palatable. Mr. Evans, indeed, still felt the propriety of hinting the dangerous tendency of Fitzosborne's principles to lady Monteith; but he thought it just to qualify his censures with many expressions of respect for his character, and admiration of his abilities. "I grieve for his perverted talents," said he; "and yet they encourage me to hope,

"that the happy time will come, when they will be instruments of restoring him to a " comfortable state of mind. Many people " are driven into insidelity by the stings of a

" burdened conscience; but I should think that

is not Mr. Fitzosborne's excuse for scepticism.

"Yet the manners of the clergy can be no

" more than an oftenfible reason.

Geraldine was not in a disposition to doubt Edward's virtues. Though she had been that very morning the unhappy dupe of his cruel duplicity, her agonized foul clung to him as to the guardian angel who was to rescue her out of an abyss of sorrow. She had discovered a letter from Mrs. Harley to her lord. It lay open upon his dreffing-table, and the hated name was fo conspicuously placed as necessarily to attract her eye. She could not refift her defire to peruse it, and the fatal contents soon convinced her, that the buliness which lord Monteith had hinted would foon recal him to London was nothing more than a wish to renew that degrading connection. The discovery feemed to be perfectly accidental. She perceived no preconcerted plan in the circumstance of her having been fent into the room by Fitzosborne to fetch a volume of Rouffeau, from which he had just misquoted a well-known passage. She never confidered that he had free access to her lord's apartments; and she could not know that he had not only purloined the letter from Monteith, but that he actually instigated him to the proposed journey, by those indirect means of opposition which he had found to be the most suitable way of governing a headstrong impetuous character. Fitzosborne

courage me to hope,

Fitzofborne allowed her time to perufe the letter, and then followed her to the dreffingroom. She was leaning in a kind of stupor over a chair, her eyes fixed on the portrait of her lord which hung over the chimney, with a fort of complaining fweetness in their expresfion which language could ill describe. Edward addressed her with rhapsodical confusion. He faid the letter was a mistake. He affured her that Monteith's affections were still unquestionably her's. He execrated his conduct, and then befought her to be calm for her children's fake. At that interesting adjuration the restrained tears fole in filence down her cheek; and her tears again elevated Fitzosborne's sympathiling tendernels to frenty. He called her dear lovely excellence!" He wished ten thousand plagues to overwhelm the narrow foul of the traitor who wanted differnment to be just to her merits; and he vowed that he could not look at fuch a striking impersonification of fuffering meekness without wishing to avenge

The countels answered in a faint tone : My wrongs require no avenger: My lord should be more careful of his correspondence. Let

me entreat you to conceal the weakness into

which my curiofity has betrayed me." 1993

of my inviolable regard?" Itanigire you

What other proofs can a wife receive, con-

a dangerouss sifte folemn duties ?"uoragnab a

"The strictest delicacy, the most rigid pru-"dence, would allow an adopted brother to

" take a more active part. Remember too, it

is still possible, that the ries of esteem may

be fanctioned by those of kindred. Can I

" feek the recovery of lady Arabella's favour by worthier means than by trying to difengage her brother from a criminal attach-"Gmento" hand a ni gninest saw 3.18 moor

"that bleffed end," exclaimed the impaffioned Geraldine, with clasped hands, and wild emphatic looks to refcue my Monteith from this "dreadful thraldom; restore to me his valua-"ble but estranged heart, and I will pray for 15 you, Fitzosborne-I will entreat of Heaven, that all your future days may be as happy as

"those I once enjoy'd."

Edward had no desire to be included in Geraldine's prayers. He was equally averse to hear of her attachment to her husband, and of her dependance on Heaven. The advice he gave was of a fatiric nature. It was, to charge her lord with his infidelity; to humble him by her superiority; and to convince him by her eloquence. Vice, he affirmed, must shrink from the presence of virtue. The sunbeam of her eye must distipate the clouds by which Monteith's reason was enveloped. His recovered judgment would compare innocence, grace, and beauty, with proftitution, vanity, and caprice; and a repentant hufband, awakened by her reproofs to a fense of honour, would at her feet abjure the infamous Harley, and all her Angitious fifterhood.

Lady Monteith's perturbed mind still possessed fufficient clearness to relift the adoption of such a dangerous expedient, which, by inflaming the violent passions of her lord, was more likely to make him call off all the decorum which a dread of discovery imposed, than to check the career of his vicious indulgence; and her deliyoso be fanctioned by those of kindred."

cacy pointed out the imprudence of arming his pride in the cause of a courtezan, when she hoped it might be made the happy instrument of releasing him from a degrading connection. " I have," faid the, " prescribed to myself but " two rules for my conduct in this unfortunate " affair; and to these I will rigidly adhere. " will never reproach lord Monteith, nor will I " ever divulge his judifcremons, Even my Lucy, " the partner of my foul, dees not know that " the dejection which the must observe in me " proceeds from any other cause than latent robbed me of my hulband's bear, noithoglibni "

"There are certainly many reasons for withholding fuch confidence from Mils Evans; and when I consider your father's " age and increasing infirmities, I renounce a " plan which the respectability of his character

once suggested to me, of acquainting him " with his fon-in-law's conduct, and urging

" him to assume the tone highly becoming an

" injured and affectionate parent."

" O! for Heaven's fake! reject that idea;" exclaimed the terrified counters. "Let not " the halcyon calm of his declining years be " clouded with a doubt of his child's happiness. " How ungrateful, how impious should I be, " to draw from reposing age the pillow on " which it finks to reft, cheered by approving " confcience, and holding fweet communion

with that peaceful world for which it has

" heen long preparing." And are you not afraid that his paternal. " folicitude will pervade your pious conceal-

"ment?" inquired Fitzosborne. "I have seen

" him watch your varying looks, and cast glanand H « ces

" ces on lord Monteith strongly indicative of " sufficion." To sandardami and two betting years

"You alarm me. Surely I had better leave

" Powerscourt immediately, before those suf-

" picions thall be confirmed." oil mid andesels

"That proposal, madam, indicates your cultomary prudence, though it is hard at such a
time to deprive yourself of the comforts of

" his tender affection, and the foothings of

" Mis Evans's friendthip. Whither will you

" direct your pensive steps?"

"Not to that cruel world, Fitzosborne, which has farnished my reputation, and robbed me of my husband's heart. I will go to Monteith, and embrace my dear little girls, from whom I have been ten months feparated. Their playful prattle will perhaps amuse me; at least their undiscerning simplicity will not impose upon me a painful restraint, in order to escape yet more insup-

" portable observations; I shall be allowed the free indulgence of tears, and my mind may

" possibly recover strength from solitude."

"And is this the lot of the noblest orna"ment of her age and country?" exclaimed
Edward." "O lady Monteith! are you ano"ther victim to the blind caprices of For"tune?"

"I was the carver of my own fortune, and must not complain of her caprices. I was just to the impulse of an early attachment, and I have no one to condemn. Even at this instant complaint is silenced by pity. "Lord Monteith cannot be happy. The re"collection of me must obtrude upon his guilty "dalliance. The improduct woman by whom

" dalliance. The imprudent woman, by whom he is fatally entangled, can urge no claim to his

"I am the mother of his children, the faithful repolitory of his fecrets, the partner of his forrows. I have foothed his anxieties, compoled his fuffled temper, watched him in fickness. O Fitzofborne! words cannot express how much this agonising heart preserved his interest and his happiness to my

Edward grasped her unconscious hand, and tremulously articulated, Must corroding forrow waste the fairest pattern of all that is good and attractive? Surely, Monteith!
thou art the only man who could be unjust to such excellence."

My good friend," faid the countefs, roused to recollection by the ready tears which bathed her hands, "suppress this keen sensibility of my forrows. You shall see that I will endure them. For my children's sake, for the sake of all who love me, I will endeavour to exert myself: and to be amused, I will visit the good cottagers whom I once made happy; I will retrace the groves I planted, and resume my accustomed occupations; though every employment, every pursuit, even life itself, is tasteless now."

Fitzosborne dried his tears, and took a turn across the room to recover the philosophy which he protested had never before been so severely tried. Could nothing be done, nothing be thought of, to restore the charming sufferer to the peace which she so highly merited? Again he addressed the trembling mourner, who, gazing on the portrait of her lord, seemed to apostrophize the beloved remembrance, and to implore not merely compassion but justice, inat-

byighsmes with what I think irrefulible argu-

tentive to the blandishments of her seducer unconscious of the impropriety of that confidence which her agitated sout bestowed, and only sufceptible of the sense of anguish, or the seeble

hope of regaining an alienated heart. alended

"At length," Said Eitzosborne, after two or three ineffectual endeavours to speak, " I have " thought of two plans. They will, indeed, in-" clude a little oblique conduct; but the end is " too pure, too desirable to render objectionable the means of obtaining it. I know a young " nobleman who withes to rival your lord in "Mrs. Harley's favour. He is rich and extravagant, and I have fome influence over his " mind. It is but spiriting him to outbid your husband, and the venal fair will soon forbid " the vifits of her less liberal keeper. Or, I " could feign a letter as from Mrs. Harley to " this gentleman, which would awaken Mon-" teith's jealoufy, and probably might have the " same effect of dissolving the connection. You " flart, madam. Confider that the infamy of " the woman is confirmed, and how forcible " are the claims which your innocent children "have upon your exertions brownigme views "

"I must not preserve their innocence by the forsesture of my own. What right have I to aggravate the guilt of an unhappy woman, or to transfer to another family the calamity which weighs me down? Nor can I yield to fully my integrity by basely framing a forged accusation, or to taint my reputation by exposing it to the disgrace of a dishonourable

gazing on the potreat of her lord". grayophio"

"tic, and I must beg permission to urge my schemes with what I think irresistible argu-

"ments, if the faint hope which I have founded upon my influence over lord Monteith's

mind should fail me. Unfortunately, he is

so bent upon going to town, that it will be

useless to oppose his plan; but I will accompany him, and exert all my limited abilities

to dissolve this enchantment. No matter

though I lose his friendship; his vicious pur
suits have annihilated my esteem, and I scorn

to receive suture favours from a man unjust

to you."

"Ah!" thought Geraldine, "what can break
"the adamantine chain which links him to my
heart! Should the hour ever arrive when affection ceases to throb, will not duty continue
to urge its resistless claims? But I cannot
wonder, that a mind so refined as Fitzofborne's should call weakness vice, and distain
communion with one who gives licence to
those rebel passens, which his firmer spirit
holds in calm subjection. O, that Monteith
possessed his virtues! But earth must not refemble heaven."

"You pause, madam," faid Fitzosborne, interrupting her train of thought. "Am I still so "unfortunate as not to be able to suggest any "thing deserving of your approbation?"

"My excellent friend!" refumed the Counters, "follow the dictates of your own good heart. Whatever scheme your knowledge of the world suggests, whatever distansive arguments your superior talents direct you to use, "exert them in my cause. But be careful to restrain your zeal to restore my ruined peace, less it should urge you to pursue those indirect paths which, even if successful, my principles must constantly disapprove."

"I think," returned the sophister, the code of laws which you dignify by your obedience permits the serpent to be blended with the dove. Your innocence and your reputation cannot be injured by actions in which you do not participate; and if my conscience justifies my proceedings, what have you to oppose? Be assured, that not even your interest would prompt me to any step which I did not think highly warrantable; and here again I am countenanced by those doctrines which teach me that the motive constitutes the act."

"Be fure," said the countess, "to examine

" your motives with ferupulous care, left you " thould be deceived by a fractions good "

" should be deceived by a specious good." "My motives," faid Tirzolborne, " have un-" dergone the defired ferntiny, and I will abide " by the refult of my inquiry. But I have two " favours to request of you. Do not, while with " unremitting affiduity I flake all my hopes, " and brave every peril to restore to you the happiness you have lost -do not, dearest lady " Monteith while I am far diftant from you. " liften to any uncharitable suggestions that " might tend to prejudice me in your esteem: " Should any reflections be cast upon me for " cherishing some peculiar notions, call to mind " that noble candour which teaches us, that " these principles cannot be wrong which " prompt right actions. Permit me too the " honour of your correspondence; and if suc-" cefs should crown my hopes, if my once va-" fued friend should return to Monteith wor-"thy of you, allow me to partake your "transports; and let the cloud of forrow and "disappointment which now obscures my " youth, be brightened by the gladdering ray." stout confiantly delapprov est proved from the refreshing fountain of the province of the

"Hirable "

The counters promised the required favours with penetrating fincerity. She confirmed the affurances of her permanent efteem by giving him a miniature portrait of herfelf, which had been drawn with a view of being decorated with brilliants, and presented to lady Arabella on her intended nuptials. Her opinion of Fitzofborne's merits was wrought up to admiration; and the refult of this interview convinced him, that he had gained all the ground in her affections which probability allowed him to expect. Her delicacy was no longer startled by his passionate manner; the warm interest which he took in her cause no longer awakened the apprehension of unwarrantable designs. She had all the confidence in his integrity which he wished to infpire; and he relied upon her gratitude and her generosity to divert every inference, and filence every fuggestion, that might be urged to

The moment, therefore, was unpropitious which Mr. Evans had cholen to alarm her fears, by flating his conviction, that the fingularity of her friend's fentiments were more nearly allied to deifm than their apparent moderation and candour made her suspect. I have already I have already mentioned the motives which induced Mr. Evans to fosten his intended censure; but Geraldine listened with impatience even to the extenuated acculation. Not that the thought the charge of deifm a light reproach, or that her own conviction of the truth of revealed religion was enfeebled; on the contrary, her prefent dejected spirits more strongly impelled her to draw

draw water from the refreshing fountain of ejernal truth. But her preposession in Edward's favour made her allow for a little clerical zeal for orthodoxy, which might, she thought, confound, characters feparated by many diferiminating tenets: and, granting that Mr. Evans's fuspicions even in their widest latitude were fill well-founded, no danger could result from her intimacy with a person to whom he allowed the pollellion of lo much talent and fo much moral principle.

Her reply, therefore, to Mr. Evans's observations commenced with a popular fentiment,

4 that the faith could not be wrong, when the Life was right. I am afraid, faid the,

many people, who profess themselves warm advocates for the doctrines of our religion, would be unwilling to have the reality of their own belief ascertained by this simple.

and compendious maxim. We cannot judge

of another person's heart but through the medium of his actions; and even calumny

itself casts no censure on Mr. Fitzosborne.

Let us not then condemn him on account of

fome fingularity of opinion; for opinion, my dear fir, you know, is free. We can only be

affected by the actions of others, not by their

fentiments.

whas le Beware, my dearest lady Monteith," re-If fumed Mr. Evans, how you extend the

apologies which may be urged in behalf of harmlels lingularity, to the vindication of

of those perilous doctrines which not only " corrupt the foil where they are suffered to

tion of all that is dear and valuable to fociety.

Of "Do the virtues of even the moral deift france draw

" upon any firm ground? Reason is his god; and he may to-day discover the footsteps of " his deity in the paradoxes of Epicurus, and " to-morrow in the fables of the Koran. " credulity of the justdel is proverbial, and his " notions of right are as varying as his creed-He, my dear lady, is the corrupt tree from or which, infallibility itself tells us, good fruit " cannot spring. He is the polluted fountain " whose waters must be bitter. As the mind er thinks, the tongue speaks, and the man acts. " The battery which he erects against the rock of " faith is built on fand, liable to be undermined " by every tide, and overthrown by every wind; " yet with reftless malevolence he persists in " his attack. Observe, madam, the system ever pursued by sceptics is offensive warfare; the " liberty of private judgment does not content Pressing their pestiferous doctrines at " every opportunity, they deny us the freedom: " which they claim for themselves, and never " resort to the plea of moderation, but when " closely proffed by arguments which they can-" not otherwise avoid. But let them remem-" ber, when either vanity or the delire of mak-" ing converts induces them to unfettle the " minds of others, opinion then becomes acti-" on, and they are as answerable at the audit " of God and their country for the principles " wnich they promulgate, as for the deeds they " commit. "Have you not rather exaggerated Mr.

Fitzosborne's errors?" said the countess, in a more decided tone than she was accustomed to use to her reverend instructor. "I have "often heard him expatiate upon serious sub"jects, but must own that I never discovered any

"any tendency to deifm. If I thought him an infidel, it would give me the liveliest concern; for, beside the esteem which his virtues inspire in my mind, I owe him indesign ble gratitude for many uncommon marks of

" friendship."

"I have repeated the very words he used, madam. Be you the judge. Why he should affect reserve to you, and choose to be unnecessarily explicit to me, is somewhat mysterious. What you tell me of this young gentleman, and what I have myself observed, strongly awakens my compassion. He has desired to renew the subject of our late conversation. I shall return to it with pleasure, and esteem myself happy if my esforts can direct his abilities to their pristine intent, and restore to his beson that tranquillity which he cannot now enjoy."

"You are always in character, my dear Mr. Evans, compassionate and benevolent even to those whose conduct you disapprove. I will endeavour to be a fellow-labourer in the same good work; and though my know- ledge is too limited to convince Mr. Fitz- ofborne's judgment, I may expedite the conviction the desires by pointing some persua-

" five passages to his heart."

"Ever-amiable lady Monteith!" returned the good man with pious earnestness, "be"ware how you enter the thorny paths of theological controversy. I respect your sex too much to wish them to hazard the mild lustre of benignity with which the god of nature has adorned them, to pursue that uncongenial splendor which they can never obtain. Metaphysical deductions, and philo"logical"

logical learning, by which we defend our faith against its allallants, require a levere courie of itudy, and more intende thought tendency of your intellectual powers, will " afford, You will be entrapped into conclufions which nothing but fkill in the fubrilties " of argument can elude; confused by objecstions oftentationally multiplied; the fallacy. " of which the Ithuriel spear of biblical litera-" ture would instantly detect. By a dignified " filence, or an indication of displeasure, cones vince the bold disputant who obtrudes his " crude notions of an invisible God on your " ordinary conversation, that your respect is. " too profound to enter lightly on the facred " theme, and your conviction too fincere to " need the adventitious aid of a vanquished " opponent. These sophists, my dear madam, " though they feek to embarrass others, are " themselves well acquainted with the torments. " of doubt; and it is only by the converts whom their false theory bewilders that they. are kept from renouncing it themselves. It. is not to a zeal for truth, not even to the mifgivings of conscience, that scepticism. owes most of its adherents, but to the pride. of human reason, and the love of lingularity. " Permit them to display these qualities, and " you grant them the triumph they delire."

Geraldine allowed the general truth of these observations, but claimed an exemption in behalf of her friend. He was too placable and gentle to love dispute, and too candid to repel conviction. Mr. Evans determined to investigate the existence of these qualities at their next conversation; but the opportunity of ob-

ferving

ferving them never occurred. Lord Monteith fet off for London the following morning, and Fitzosborne, by accompanying him, confirmed the countels in that lively sense of esteem and gratitude which she thought she could no way better express than by exerting all her powers to impart to his character whatever in her judgment it still wanted of perfection.

"tions oftentationly multiplied; the fallacy, "a of which the Ithuriel spear of biblical literation would mitamis docelle." By a dignified "thence, or an indication of displacture, con-

vince the bold disputant who obtaides his crude noticed any in that your respect is

An elegant sufficiency, content,

Retirement, rural quiet, friendship, books,

Ease and alternate labour, useful life,

Progressive virtue, and approving heaven;

These are the matchless joys of virtuous love.

es of doubt; and it is only by the converts LADY MONTEITH's fortitude was to feverely tried by her consciousness of the motives which occasioned her lord's hasty departure for London, that she found it necessary immediately to adopt Fitzosborne's advice of returning to Scotland, left the forrows of her afflicted heart should sometimes disdain the disguise which filial piety induced her to assume. Her parting with her father was marked by circumstances of peculiar tenderness. I shall not, however, draw from them any ominous predictions. Sir William's advanced age and increasing infirmities on the one hand, and his lovely daughter's depressed spirits on the other, may account for serving

this acute fensibility without afcribing to either

the powers of prescience.

The evening previous to Geraldine's departure, her penfive mind was somewhat enlightened by a very agreeable conversation with Miss. Evans. "You know," faid that amiable girl, "I always had a cast of the whimsical about " me; and probably if you had solicited my " company at Monteith, I might have raised an invincible host of objections; but since " you say nothing upon the subject, I am per-" verse enough to determine to go back with

" you to Scotland."

" My dearest Lucy," said the Countess, while her pale cheek kindled with the blush of pleafure; " may you always be thus delight-" fully perverse! Why I expressed less solici-" tude for your company partly proceeded from " the nature of my own prospects, but prin-" cipally from what I suspect to be yours."—
"We spinsters," replied Miss Evans, passing over her friend's allusion to the state of her own affairs with a stifled figh, " are seldom handoc fomely used by you married ladies, " we choose you for our confidants. " though I am convinced that lord Monteith will know all my fecret the very first time " you write to him, I fee the spirit of curiosity " fo very strongly imprinted upon your coun-" tenance, that I shall indulge you with a fight " of two letters."

Perhaps some of my female readers may happen to have a little of their great-grand-mother Eve's failing about them, as well as my heroine; and to gratify it, though in a less degree, I shall inform them, that these important papers were a love-letter, with the reply : and that the

author

author of the former composition was Henry Powerscourt. An attentive observation of Mis Evans's numerous excellencies had made him for some time her sincere admirer; and, fince not all the prudent delicacy of her character, nor the diffidence of his own, could entirely conceal from his observation the important fecret of her preference, his high fense of honour had long prompted him to a discovery of that reciprocal affection which her unaffuming virtues had awakened in his heart. He was refleained by reflecting, that, as he had only that heart to bestow, a declaration of his attachment might subject her to all the inconveniencies which are incident to a tender engagement, when pecuniary circumstances prevent it from being cemented by the marriage-bond. His respected patron, with somewhat of the imbecillity of age, and somewhat of that tenacity of power which strengthens our attachment to the possessions in which our tenure daily grows more precarious, had ftill delayed confirming to him the independence which he intended to bequeath. He contented himself with liberally supplying his present wants; and as he was persuaded, that the young man was very well as he was, and had no wish to alter his condition, he even brought himself to believe, that refigning to him the Merionethshire estate would be giving him a vast deal of trouble, which, as he seemed fonder of reading than of bufiness, he would certainly be as well pleased to avoid.

Panting for independence, yet distaining to acquire it by any means which he thought irreconcileable with lady Monteith's interests, or with his deference and gratitude to her father,

boold

STALE OF THE TIMES. Mr. Powerscourt repeatedly resolved to pursue the defired bleffing by the flow, but pleafant path of his own active exertions in some employment. Yet he William's love of his kinfman's fociety increasing with his infirmities furnished a thousand objections to every profession or engagement which was successively proposed. The baronet at length precluded. all further application by asking Henry, why he wanted to leave him? "Don't be uneafy." faid he, " about your suture prospects. De-" pend upon it, I shall provide for you?" Thus compelled to refer the fecurity of his own happinels to a diftant and uncertain period, Mr. Powerscourt submitted with respectful silence to his benefactor's will. He contented himself with acquainting the amiable object of his affections with the peculiarity of his fituation; and he hoped her penetration would consider that as a sufficient reason for preventing his tongue from avowing the preference which his manner strongly expressed. Doctor in senous Bog

Though Henry's behaviour perfectly agrees with my ideas of honour, I am afraid some fister of the quill, better versed in the new code which has been introduced into the court of Cupid, will detect a thousand gross misdemeanours, of which the above Henry Powerscourt has been guilty. They may prove, according to the letter of these recent acts, that his behaviour to Miss Evans ought to have been more rude, capricious, and inattentive, in proportion as he discovered her preference, and selt the increase of his own. Very likely the new method of argument may prove, that this would have been the most honourable way of proceeding.

folid advantages of large property and high

Mr. Powerfcourt repeatedly refolved to purfue years paloquid years and description and lift left I have a the country of his own actions and the country of his own actions and the country of his own actions and the country of the country of the country of his own actions of the country of t

Gifted with that intuitive knowledge which the votaries of the purblind god individually possesses. Lucy read her lover's sentiments in his eyes, and allowed the propriety of his conduct. Yet, when she looked forward to the expected events of her suggested forward to the expected events of her suggested gratitude, esteem, and veneration, generally excited a pious tear at the idea, that her own anxieties must not expect a final termination until the neighbourhood was deprived of the blessings it had long received from the unsparing benevolence of sir William Powerscourts

Affairs were in this fituation, when lady Monteith arrived from London. She had just opportunity to make a few agreeable discoveries, when the party were deprived of Mr. Powerscourt's company. He was summoned to attend the fick bed of his father, whose expectations, in respect to the marriage of his son, had been quite as unfavourable to Henry's defigns, as the protracted bounty of Gr William. Young Powerscourt being unquestionably the finest gentleman the good old yeoman had ever feen, there arole a necessity of his matching well; and as no lady in all the land could refuse him, there was no reason why he should take up with a parson's daughter. Indeed old Mr. Powerfcourt had already felected his daughver-in-law; his bold ambition having directed him to no less a personage than madam Hetty ap Owen ap Thomas, his own landlady, and lady of the manor belide. But as the juvenile attractions of youth, beauty, and sweetness, were less visible in the preferred fair, than the folid advantages of large property and high blood, blood, the father was a more ardent admirer than the fon: and, though the path of the latter was very much smoothed by the encomiums which the former bestowed upon 'son Hal,' and an enumeration of what his cousin fir William intended to do for him, which were repeated every time he went to pay his rent: nay, though miss Hetty herself always distinguished the bow of young Powerscourt by a lower curtesy, as she walked up the aisle to her own pew on a Sunday, and even once honoured him so far as to ask him to dine with her and the curate, Henry continued inviolably constant to his Lucy's

Dimpled smile, and damask cheek, And eye of glossy blue.

He was relieved from a persecution which was urged with such well-meant but mistaken earnestness as at length made it painful, by the death of his father. His regret for that event was softened by receiving a letter from sir. William a few days afterwards, inclosing the title deeds of the Merionethshire estate, and containing an assurance, that since he wished to marry, he should have a house built for him within a mile or two of Powerscourt manor.

As, in common with all Arcadian writers, I presume the village rustic is too happily engaged with his slocks and his shepherdess to attend to the affairs of his neighbour; and being persuaded that the love of news and the spirit of interference of which I have formerly seen some traces at Danbury are merely local diseases; I suppose the accession to Mr. Powerscourt's sortune continued to be a prosound secret

· fuspicion;

fecret in the parish where his father resided: at least I cannot conceive that any whisper, which the taylor, or the schoolmaster, or the barber, might circulate, could, through the medium of the curate, be diffused in the atmosphere of mils Hetty's best parlour; or that any one, by adding a unit to the rent-roll which fir William had refigned, could be the occasion of the extraordinary and even oppressive civilities with which the diftinguished lady whom I have just named loaded Mr. Henry Powerscourt. Her house was at his service; her carriage was at his fervice; her fervants were at his fervice; nay the world even faid, that the more than hinted an offer of herfelf. This latter report I disbelieve, because it went somewhat further than what the proverbial hospitality of her country can account for. But if the had any latent views, they foon received a complete mortification. Henry's first step, after the arrival of the welcome gift, was to express his gratitude to the donor; his next, to request, that mifs Evans would render independence more valuable by fharing it with him.

And now, my Geraldine," faid Lucy to the countefs, scarcely allowing her time to finish the letter which had introduced this long digression, 'I call for your selicitations. Henry, you see, ingenuously avows the early attachment which made you the first mistress of his heart. I have not that extreme refinement which can only be content with a primary affection. It is sufficient for me, that after long observation he owns a preference which he is too noble to affect, and too upright to withdraw. Secure in his honour and his virtue, not even your attractions will excite

and though the tempered expec-

tations of four-and-twenty abate much of the

fanguine enthuliasm of nineteen, neither ex-

the general happinels of my future lot with

fuch a partner as my long-loved Henry.

Lucy's head now reclined upon the shoulder of the countes, to conceal at once her blushes and her tears. "But," added the sweet girl after a moment's paule, "you express neither "furprize nor pleasure at the wonders which I

" am revealing."

The reader, who remembers the connubial forrows which clouded the countels's mind, will not wonder, that, though free from envy, her Lucy's brighter hopes occasioned a painful comparison; and we cannot be surprised at events which ourselves have directed. It was natural for Mils Evans to wonder why fir William, who had to long delayed the promised gift, should beflow it just at that time; and why he, who had been generally hoffile to marriage, and decidedly averse to Henry's forming any engagement which threatened to deprive him of his fociety, should even suggest a plan for his immediate establishment. But lady Monteith possessed the clue that could unravel the fecrets of the habyrinth. Her observations on her counn's manner had convinced her, that he was no lorger infentible of her friend's worth, and the affiduously employed all her interest with her father to expedite his intended donation, to the delay of which the rightly attributed the prevention of a defirable union. She had once intended to apply to the known munificence of her lord; but her illness, and the painful events which had followed and preceded it, prevented that defign, and interrupted

and interrupted her negociation with her father. She renewed it with increased earnestness upon the death of the elder Mr. Powerfcourt; and at length, by the discovery of her Lucy's secret. won his cheerful acquiescence. I never thought, my dear, said the good man, that those young people had a liking for each other. I am sure, if they had told me fo, I should have given my confent immediately. Why did they keep me in the dark? My god-daughter is a very discreet girl; and you know I can fix them to near me that I may fee Henry every day, which, as it is fitting you should e give up most of your time to your husband and children, is, let me tell you, a great comfort to me. I always was afraid, that Henry would take it in his head to be in love with some of vour London ladies, who would not like to play a game of cribbage to divert an old man now and then; and I thought Lucy never intended to marry, not hearing of her having ' any lover, which for such a pretty modest girl was rather extraordinary. Well, I must say, it is very odd that they should happen to like each other, for things don't often happen as we with they should?

Though fir William's constitutional habits gave a slowness to his deliberations, nothing could be more rapid than his execution of any plan in which he knew the happiness of a sellow-creature to be involved. He immediately sent for his steward and his attorney. The writings were forted out, the deed of gift drawn up, the letter written, and the messenger dispatched, before he could commit himself to his pillow with the hope of enjoying a comfortable revision of the proceedings of the past day. Lady Monteith Vol. II.

could scarcely restrain him from telling his little god-daughter, das the called her, after dinner. that he liked her ochoice very well, and that, if Geraldine had told him fooner how the had fixed her affections, the should not have been kept in suspense. The countess was desirous of enjoying the refined pleafure of fecterly dispensing good; and the withed, that an explicit avowal on the part of Henry should precede the detectie actual drawing usvol a tono

The avowal was made in terms equally honorable to his own ingenuous integrity, and auspicious to her future happinets. And while a tear stole down Geraldine's cheek at her cousin's impressive recollection of the event which constrained him to subdue an attachment that grew with his growth' and entwined itself with all the strong impressions that ardent youth receives, the faw with pleafure the fucceeding paragraph point out the merits of his mature choice with clear diferimination, and generoully prevent the confusion of maiden delicacy, by carefully avoiding that apparent certainty of acceptance which his knowledge of the state of her heart might have prompted him to assume.

Mifs Evans's reply announced the paternal fanction which her lover had folicited, and she added, with all the frank fincerity of her character, a confession of the esteem and gratitude (I am almost afraid the faid tenderness too) which his long-known worth had inspired. The laws by which we vestal fifters were accustomed to conduct our affairs of courtship were much more austere and remorfeless, and better calculated to keep up the dignity of the fex than those

which the present race of beauties adopt.

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could scarcely restrain him from telling his little god-daughitunod robness and svil hluopasvel nastration that he literatures outsies begolfsgravel nastration had elouist of continuous affect and the literatures on the continuous affects of the literatures on the literatures and south of the literatures on the literatures of the lite

in furpence. The counters was definue of end to the read of the counter was defined on the read of the counter the students of the counter the students of the counter the students of the counter the could prefume to exped a direct reply; and it was not till after feven years punctual attendance, or the actual drawing up of the marriage fettlements, that the lady's acknowledgment of reciprocal effeem could be justified. Some hulbands, my cotemporaries, have deplaced, that the trepidations of doubt and anxiety scarcely fublided till those of the modern couple generally begin; I mean, when the fair one promifes at the altar to be her good man's unalienable property 'till death do them part.' But though I disapprove of the renunciation of this decorous severity in most instances, I am inclined to permit a little latitude when the lover acts with the integrity of a Henry Powerscourt, and the lady possesses the unaffected prudence of a Lucy Evans. To terminate my diffule account of this correspondence, Lucy repressed her lover's hopes of a speedy union by stating her previous resolution of spending the following autumn in Scotland.

"No, my love," faid the countes, whose attention appeared to be roused by the conclusion of her friend's epistle, "I will not allow you to make such a sacrifice. Dearly as I prize your society, you shall be just to prior claims. I shall not be wretched, I mean dull, without you. I will sit under my favourite beeches, and meditate on that sair portrait of connumital happiness which you and your Henry E 2 will

A TALE OF THE TIMES.

"will present: a Henhals been llong depressed will will present: a Henhals been llong depressed the in his sopress. How so shall depoice in the idea of his being vatelast possessed of the independence that he so well deserves, and of the happiness which his discussionate judgment best approves. You too, my Lucy, rich in every domestic excellence! my heart rejoices at the prospect of your virtues expanding in that larger sphere; not your fortitude and quiets heroism receiving its merited reward. I will not be the means of delaying this auspicious union a single hour."

But as my fwain fays nothing upon the " fcore of an early day, or fond impatience, am " I to give him a hint that I expect fuch flou-" rifhes? No indeed; I think I have been quite frank enough already, and fet him more at eafe than any lover (I mean except himfelf) ought to be. His father's death is very rese cent; and I know his fense of propriety will . 60 prevent him from proposing marriage at pre-"fent. Let me then by flowing that I do not expect it convince him that I can imi-" tate the virtues I revered mW hat lambut fone se faint smile, Geraldine, at that declaration? "I expected to have heard some pretty allusion " to Sir Charles Grandison, or to the 'Phœ-" nix, that fole bird." Cannot you recollect " some little shade in Henry's character? his " purple coat, for instance, which diverted you " fo much two years ago. But perhaps you struft to time to abate the romance of my fen-" timents, or mentally quote the answer to " your own conundrum, why marriage is " like a microscope?"- because it discovers st little blemishes.'

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"It is happy," faid the countes, " when withere are only little blemishes to discovers I. wowillano longer refule your fociety my dear As playful friend; but l'accept it upon one condition, that I may put a post feript to your deferves, and of the happlivenes Hothrestelin of If you will promife to fay nothing as commy Lucy, rich in every donff. sm mort ignion The counters gave her word to the contrary, . and then added the following lines to aputity to and I have consented to take your dearer felf to Scotland, in hopes that the firong attracs tion will compel you to give us the additional pleasure of your company. I would tell you show I rejaice at your proposals to my Lucy, but words are so inadequate to my feelings wthat I must refer you to your knowledge of simy character to estimate the fincerity of my transported May you be as happy as your. mutual virtues deferve, bleffed with health, peace, and every worldly comfort! There is A an event (O how my filial heart abjures the simpending evil () which will enable me to Sogive my valued friend fronger marks of effreem and gratitude than ineffectual wishes, by safulfilling a promise ever facred to a six ais: se faint joileg. Geraldine, at that declaration?

**HTISTROM BRIGARAD Ponce pretty allahon of to the Phese in its above to bird. Cannot you recollect to the little diade in Henry's character? his approper cost, for initance, which diverted you to much two years ago. But perhaps you the tind to time to above the romance of my king the timetics, or mentally quote the aniwer to so your own commutating, why marriage is take a microscope?— because it discovers

her heart funk at the chilling contraft. How bright the radiance of love purified by efteem! How unld the luthre of equal minds, humble but not courtal XI for fire, Him lar taffes, and moserate desire. How blank were her own

In all the dewy landscapes of the spring,
In the bright eye of Helper, or the morn,
In nature's fairest forms, is aught to fair
As virtuous friendship? is abush to have

lure ihe spacious manuon, the numerous el

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No event happened immediately after my Meroine's return to Scotland that deserves to be recorded. Though Mife Evans's conviction that some concealed forcow preyed upon her amiable friend's mind, was the fecret cause of her accompanying her, the rightly judged that it was of a species which would receive no diminution from participation, and therefore forbore to intrude upon the fanctity of woe. She contented herfelf with employing the stores of her wellcultivated mind, and the emanations of her sportive fancy, to alleviate the dejection which admitted not of cure. Her anxious defire to amuse her pensive companion sometimes made her cheerfulness more redundant than agreed with her natural character. But lady Monteith's persuasion, that the sunshine of her profpects gave a more festal gaiety to her spirits, prevented her from perceiving that her Lucy's vivacity, was more symptomatic of affiduous, anxious friendship, than expressive of the calm. fatisfaction of heartfelt happiness. befeiger esw

The countess sometimes drew a parallel between her friend's situation and her own, and

her

her heart funk at the chilling contrast. How bright the radiance of love purified by efteem ! How mild the luftre of equal minds, humble but not contracted fortunes, fimilar taftes, and moderate defires! How blank were her own views! Not the uncontrolled possession of an extensive domain, not the pomp and superiority of feudal greatuels, cloud-capped mountains crowned with forests of pines lakes bestudded with verdant islands, and stringed with odoriferous firms, could now afford her any pleafure. The spacious mansion, the numerous eftablishment, seemed but mementos of their absent Lord. Loen the feetery of her lovely children could not give the expected confolation. They fooke and looked like their faith efe father, and the tear of anguish mingled with the fmile of maternal rapture. w band a basis

The correspondence of Fitzosborne afforded no latisfactory intelligence. If one letter announced a plan which it was hoped might detach him from Mrs. Harley, the next epiftle proclaimed its failure, and only detailed force mutilated convertations which implied a more total elienation of his lerdthip's affections than the writer thought it was prudent to commumoate. Her tearful eyes fixed upon thefe particulars, and paffed over with cold and vacant gaze the compliments which Edward addressed to her person, mind, and conducti She scarcely observed eveny the sympathy that he expressed for their fufferings a and the advice he gave her toudetach her affections from a man who he feared would never again return her tenderness, was rejected with a conviction that it was im-The counters tomerimes drew a paidsoifariq

"off n her friend's brustion and her own, and her

The frequency of lady Monteith's receiving letters in a male character very diffimilar to her lord's, at length excited Mils Evans's curiolity; and it even role to anxiety upon perceiving, that they were always releaved for a private perulal. Her attention, thus calually fixed, was conti-nually revived by some fresh mystery which every post-day revealed. The counters seemed almost fretfully impatient till the mail arrived; and if any company were present at the founding of the horn, the always made some excuse to leave the room. More than once Lucy per-ecived her select the letter of this favoured correspondent, and retire to read it, while even her lord's lay unopened. Yet they appeared rather to increase her melancholy than to relieve it; and constantly, after having shur herfelf in her own apartment to answer them, her face bore unequivocal marks of having been bathed in tears.

Disdaining to satisfy her doubts by indirect means, and unable to purfue any plan of raillery or playful artifice on what the feared was a very ferious subject, Lucy determined to give her friend an impressive hint of a very apparent impropriety; but unfortunately the interference of the Evans's was always so ill-timed as rather to assist than to frustrate Fitzosborne's diabolical views. In reply to a letter in which the countels, like the artless placable Desdemona, had professed that it was impossible for her affections ever to change their object, Edward announced the welcome tidings of her lord's speedy return. The merit of this reformation was, however, wholly owing to his friendly monitor's contrivance. He had cut out that part of Geraldine's letter which contained those affecting expressions

emotions but her manner indicated that forms

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of inviolable attachment, and pretending, that it was addressed to one of her London correspondents, with whom he was intimate, he had shewn it to lord Monteith, and so strongly worked up his feelings of compunction and shame, that a rupture with Mrs. Harley was the consequence. Fitzosborne regretted, that he was not likely to witness the reconciliation which he had so anxiously laboured to promote; but the Minister had just given an absolute promise in his favour, and his long experience of courtly forgetfulness convinced him of the positive necessity of reviving recollection by constant attendance. He however added, that if his friend should not be in a desirable state of mind when he left London, he would renounce all his hopes of an establishment rather than risk the stability of recent resolutions by leaving him, during his long journey, to the suggestions of his wayward fancy.

An exclamation, or rather shrick of surprize and transport, which followed the perusal of this letter, drew Miss Evans into the counters's chamber. She found her friend sunk upon her knees, her hands and eyes listed up as in a strong transport of devotion, while the paleness of her countenance indicated immediate danger of fainting. Lucy slew to assist her. 'No,' said lady Monteith, gently rejecting the proffered salts, 'I am not ill.—A sudden surprise has overwhelmed me—leave me to myself a little in I shall soon be composed.' Miss Evans

filently withdrew.

Contrary to the usual hospitality of Monteith castle, the friends sat down tete-à-tête to dinner. The noble hostels was recovered from her strike emotion; but her manner indicated that some

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important.

important event demanded all her thoughts, which reluctantly submitted to pay a scanty attention to passing objects. The servants were no sooner withdrawn, than unable any longer to restrain her sulf-staught heart; she told her friend that they should soon have a welcome a dition to their party in the company of lord Monteith, and perhaps Mr. Fitzosborne also.

I fincerely rejoice in my lord's return,' faid Mils Evans; but I thought his friend was fully occupied either in attending the Minister's levee, or in discharging the duties of the office which you told me his lordship's interest would

procute him.

He will facrifice every thing to the defire of proving his fincere attachment to me, faid lady Monteith, too much engrofied by the lively paffion of gratitude to attend to the caution which she had hitherto used upon the subject of her cor-

respondence with Edward.

Alarmed at these expressions, Miss Evans persevered in a curiofity which the would have reprobated upon any other occasion; and Geraldine, drawn by her interrogatories to be more explicit than she at first defigned, at length confided the whole flory of her latent forrows. She spoke the prefent feelings of her heart; and though the supposed it still attuned to gentle complacency and forgiving sweetness, diffress had for some time prevented her from engaging in her customary duty of felfexamination; and the indignant fensations of flighted beauty, and offended defert, gave an air. of refentment to her narrative of her husband's perfidy, which the limited merit of his reluctant return and irrefolute repentance could not fubdue. She haftened from this painful subject to the more pleasing theme of Fitzosborne's discernment, zeal,

zeal, and fidelity; his refined delicacy, correct judgment, and all the capacious powers of his

exalted foul.

Possibly he may mean well, observed Mis-Evans, after having, with marked attention, twice read Fitzosborne's letter. Surprised at a suggestion which seemed deficient of her usual. candour, lady Monteith replied, that the integrity could not be doubtful which spoke by the most noble actions. What, said she, but difinterested virtue could thus direct his unwearied affiduity to attempt the restoration of my domestic happiness?

"There is a mystery in this business," continued Lucy, " which I cannot penetrate. It is to " me aftonishing, that lord Monteith, after hav-"ing been leveral years your happy husband, " should, unfolicited and felf-feduced, abandon " you for a woman, whose weak pretentions to

" his notice must arise from some faint transcript" " of that intelligent beauty which animates your

" countenance, or some contemptible imitation of the playful wit which irradiates your con-

verfation.

" My dear feeluded friend," replied the countels, "knows nothing of the corrupt manners of " the world; of the eclat which general opinion " attaches to novelty, or of the celebrity which is " oftener shared by eccentricity and a bold defi-

ance of decorum, than awarded to real de
"fert."

"True," faid Lucy; "happily both for my

temper and my heart, I am ignorant of the

manners you describe. But how could lord

Monteuth see this Mrs. Harley? A woman

of her description must be a stranger to the parties he would frequent: I mean, while he

" continued rear.

the continued ounseduced by the allurements of the vice to enough it reasons and all a end to the Lady Monteith observed, that though women of the action never whited courtexans; yet unless they were very low, or every and actous, the latter always appeared in public places, and if a certain degree of fashion was annexed to them, either our count of their own with and elegance, or for the rank or talents of their admirers, gentlemen self themselves not disgraced by being seen in their parties. It was, therefore, very possible for her lord to see Mrs. Harley sufficiently to be allured by her person and conversation, without his frequenting any scenes unbecoming his rank or injurious to his reputational solds regard.

Lucy fighed at the relaxed manners which feemed to usher in the triumphs of relaxed principles. But her fuspicions of some nefarious preceedings on the part of Fitzosborne were not yet entirely removed. I must not then," faid the, " suppose my lord quite changed; but still " I know you are the fame. Your feeling heart "will not allow you to estimate the degree of regard which you should bear to the husband of " your youth and the father of your children by the cold plea of defert, w Your forgiveness " would outstep his folicitations; and every "time you spoke or wrote to him; the fentiments " of your full-fraught heart would give a digni-"fed tendernels to your expressions, viemote " from reproach, and better calculated to awaken " compunction at How learne at smy dove that "this fuffering gentleness, exerted at Powers-" court, or the affectionate letters that you have "written to him fince you have been here; have " had no effect; but that the mighty good frould " at length be accomplished by the skilful contri-1 30 Hr.

was and areful interpolition not Mr. Hitzofwho horse? Has he a greater influence over your
thousand chargen could acquire to Monta who
there to much interested to exert the results as
your power of your many invincible charmed. How
widiffinilars must long Monteith's character be
thefrom what it appears b''flat to estable many.

correlatine pleaded, that the people are differently disposed at different times; and that similar actions and sentiments frequently fail of producing correspondent effects; and site accounted for the inefficacy of her pen by owing, that she had only written short and in some fort formal letters to her lord since her return to Scotland. "No "longer able," said she, "to pour forth my "whole heart, I was glad of some extraneous "subject which would occupy the vacant page." and And how did you then hope to reclaim "him?" inquired Lucy. "I should think that the perceived any coldness in your manner he "would turn that discovery into an apology for "shis behaviour?" and add are not would apply the

"I locald not help the configuration he might be put upon my letters. I Sorrow cannot be differ for hufe, unless where it may unbosom its woes." and Did you not write at large to Mr. Fitzof-

"Interpolition was my only hope."

Stenance one another in the custom of having smale confidents as well as male attendants?"

There is a little pique, it thought the countels inothat observation; of but friendship warmmas my Lucy's is very susceptible, and will not
firesent her well-meant acrimony. It is on but

" at length be accomplished by the fkilful contri-

Be affured, 's faid the, classing Miss Evans's hand with a ferile of tender (weetness, that ac-"cident alone gave him possession of what prudence taught me to conceal from you!" She then related the principal particulars of what passed in lord Monteith's dressing-room at Powerfcourt; but though all her communications were intended to place Fizzaborne in a fairer point of views the suspicious Lucy only discovered increasing mystery, if not absolute dupli-

"It is plain," faid the, in reply to lady Monteith's narrative, " that Fitzofborne early knew of your lord's inconstancy. It is plain too,

that he has all along been affirred that he pof-" fesses a considerable influence over his mind.

"Your admirable conduct, my Geraldine, has convinced the world, that, though your huf-

band's paffions are hafty and impetuous, they

a may be directed by gentle management. Is it

not wonderful then, that all Mr. Fitzofborne's

" boafted penetration, judgment, and felf-com-

a mand, should not have struck at the root of

this fatal connection before it was confirmed " by habit; or that it should continue so long,

" after he had fet all his acknowledged abilities to

work for its annihilation, when he had him to

" himself too, with uninterrupted power to act

" as he thought must expedient i!"

"But he has succeeded at last," observed the countels, rather fretted than convinced by the evident drift of her friend's conversation.

" He has; but how? By means incompatible with the frank ingenuousness of your character,

and which must either subject you to the ap-

" prehension of your lord's discovery of a premea ditated fraud, or force you to confess that, de-" spairing molod

of foairing of your own influence, you have ab-" blied to a knight errant for affiliance Only " confider too, how insidequare are the means, if withe victory were indeed to difficult. Did lord "Monteith doubt your affection, your constancy. " your forgivenes! Who inferred those doubted "Or how came it, that your champion's elo-" quence could not difpel them? But I perceive " I diffres you, my Geraldine Rity, love, and " admiration for you, are the predominant feel-" ings of my foul, which exults in your bright "ening prospects. See, for once I transgress "against my usual absternioushes: this glass of "Champagne is, to the freedy and happy return of the agreeable ford Monteith. You pledge me, "I know, in that fentiment. I have not, how-"ever, quite finished it. Observe what follows : "But no Fitzosporne with him."

The countefs, fmiling, wiped a starting tear: "I perceive," thought the, "whence Lucy's pre-" judices against this amiable man arise. Her " father suspects him of infidelity. It is a pity, "indeed, that he does not add the luftre of piety to his acknowledged virtues; but it is more una fortunate, when religion gives its champions a " tincture of bigotry and cenforiousness." Her children, entering the room at that moment, made the images of Fitzotborne and his opponents yield to the tender recollection of their returning het he has jucceeded, at laft, father.

That much defired event speedily took place, and received an additional recommendation from its happening fooner than even lady Monteith's calculations judged to be possible. Her lord met her with a glow of tenderness, which quickly made her trembling agitation yield to the most delightful composure, while Lucy's sympathetic

bosom

her eagernes to convict him hor infrequently bolom (welled with grateful raptureled She turned her head alide to diver a prayer for the continua-ance of this renewed affection, and perceived that all her withes were not fulfilled. Fitzofborne was of the party. He made her a most profound bow. An abrupt curtery was her return, as fro

te It is the fulpicion, and the to hetfelf, Whiving to calm her agitated thoughts; " and I am " certainly very wrong in acting upon it as if it were certainty. I think I fee invidious guile in " every feature of his countenance. Yet luppo-" fing my conjecture right, is it prudent for me " to put him upon his guard, by showing him that I diske him? I shall be better able to warn my friend of his depravity, by at least aper pearing to receive that impression which he

" chooses to give me of his character,"

Mis Evans's natural fincerity, and the ardour of her attachment to the counters, prevented her from pursuing the line of conduct which she had prescribed. As her strong sense and extensive reading enabled her eafily to detect the fallacious fophilms which Fitzosborne easily passed upon his more partial or less differning auditors; so her frank ingenuousness; undiguised by the habits of polished life, heightened by her early imprinted reverence for facred truths, and her anxious apprehentions for the fecurity of her beloved Geraldine, against whom the faw that the infernal artillery was chiefly directed, scarcely allowed her to confine her indignation within the bounds which her unaffected propriety of manners would otherwise have obferved. But violence generally defeats its own intentions. The horror she conceived against Fitzosborne's supposed designs induced her to view his every word and action with suspicion: and

her eagerness to convict him not unfrequently produced a false accusation, of which lady Monteith's anxiety to clear the wounded honour of her friend constantly took advantage.

her friend constantly took advantage.

The result, therefore, of this vigilant scrutiny was not what Lucy hoped it would be. Geraldine, instead of being convinced that she harboured a bosom-traitor, saw in the friend of her early youth another instance of the usual effects of a secluded way of life, pertinacity of opinion and austerity

of manners.

The reconciliation of the earl and his countels, though apparently cordial, was not attended with that tranquil confidence which preceded the difaftrous period of his lordship's enormities. He seemed to feel degraded by the virtues of his wife. He discovered reproach in her observations, and feverity in her conduct. No longer able to flatter himself with the hopes that his faults were not trumpeted to the winds, he fometimes confirued; her behaviour into contempt and indifference; and though the exquisite anguish which that idea caused might have told him that a transient infatuation cannot displace rooted regard, he always fancied that he could retort forn with forn; and as his decisions and actions followed each other with rapid pace, he foon determined to relinquish that tenderness of manner which compunction had imposed on his first return, and which, he thought, had too much the air of felf-acculation to fuit the dignity of a husband's character. She, on the other hand, though affured by Fitzofborne that the breach with Mrs. Harley was irreconcileable, could not repress her fears, lest a heart which once had wondered might be again inthralled. It was plain that Fitzosborne had the fame apprehention. His vifit to Monteith proved; his every word and action with suspicion: and

that, to use his own words, "his friend was not "in such a desirable state of mind as to permit his dependance upon the stability of recent resolutions." Thus aggravated, Geraldine's dread of estranging her husband by her behaviour, or giving him an excuse for suture insidelity, far exceeded the bounds which affection alone would have prescribed; and her manner had an air of restraint which the increasing gloom of her lord's did not relieve.

Beside the accusations of conscience, Monteith's foul struggled with other forrows. His initiation into the myfferies of the gaming houses had been attended by fevere losses; and while the extravagance of a mercenary courtegan had been supplied with the sums appropriated to his tradefmen, he had fatisfied his debts of honour by granting annuities upon his effate to that fet of harpies who glory in the wealth which they have acquired by administering to the vices of mankind. For the first time fince his marriage, the earl was informed by his steward, that the yearly expenditure would greatly exceed his rent-roll. Impatient of enduring the blame of any fault which he could transfer to another, he determined to place this defalcation to the fums which lady Monteith had expended in the improvement of the adjacent country, and in some fresh erections at James town, with which the had amufed berfelf during his absence. He read her a long leco ture of acconomy; reprobated her turn for expenfive alterations; and affirmed, that it would be the means of compelling him to leave the feat of his ancestors. These reproofs were new all disguised by the presence of providing for his fores education, and ill-timed : for; relying upon his wonted liberativy, Geraldine had not only endead voured

voured to occupy her mind by some expensive exclions in the park, but had also let on foot some new charitable institutions which her benevolent heart could not abandon without feeling the most lively regret. Forgetting, or perhaps wanting fortitude to use the guiding clue by which she had formerly been accustomed to institute his opinions, the attempted to remonstrate, but was soon silenced by a reply which her enseebled spirits could not support. She retired in tears.

The reader will not believe that Fitzosborne had been fincere in his wishes of effecting an entire reconciliation. It answered his purpose to bring the earl back, freed from his connexion with Mrs. Harley; he had performed that undertaking, and taught the counters that the owed him an indelible debt of gratitude. He now generally left his lordship to that misery which must be the natural effect of a perturbed conscience and perplexed circumstances upon a mind which wanted wisdom to plan and fortitude to. persevere in a system of ceconomical retrenchment, or to efface error by fincere repentance. He faw with pleasure the gay, careless, generous earl of Monteith, become gloomy, absent, morole, and penutious. He law too, that the bottle was constantly applied to, not, as formerly, to: be an auxiliary to mirth, but as an opiate to filence care. Affection could no longer hind the heart of Geraldine to fuch a partner. Continual: provocation must weaken the claims of duty; and there needed nothing more than that himfelf fhould exhibit the full effect of contrast, by a difplay of the virtues most opposite to Monteith's vices, and to proceed in his delign of enfeebling the power of religious principles, to render the unfufyoured

affift

unfulpecting countels his easy prey. Her opposition to what the thought the extreme rigidity
of some of Miss Evans's opinions, and her tacit
acquiescence to several of his tenets, convinced
him, that he had made a considerable progress.
He continued filent upon the subject of her lord's
conduct. An air of pity and respect, mingled
with the uniform attention of his manner, spoke
a language far plainer than words. Just gert
band suppresent and respect than words.

Here oft, when exeminatinks H. 2 trepose

And, mingling with the jas mine's penfile flowers. Fulfil the wifhes of the mourains maid.

I hate when Vice can bolt her arguments.

And Virtue has no tongue to check her pride.

MILTON

As calleful lympathy enjoys the theme. HAVE already observed, that miss Evans's impetuofity was of differvice to the noble cause which the confeientiously espouled; and Fitzofborne, certain that her zeal would defeat her whom he could only render formidable by appearing to fear. But the cause of principle was now defended by the arrival of another champion. Mr. Powerscourt availed himself of the countes's invitation to chide his Lucy for a tyrannical exercife of female prerogative, in compelling him to take a journey of two hundred miles to whifper a love-tale which might have been more agreeably told in a little woodhine bower which the had erected, in first conformity to the fulles prescribed by her favourite poet Mason in the parsonage garden at Powerscourt Henry had named it after the Nerina of that elegant bardy basit, applauded her motives and promifed to

The second of th

Nerina's bower, where I mid be bower, the Merina Brain Brain of the Brain Brai

Wind, fragrant woodbine I round Nerina's bower:
Clematis, deepen the umbrageous shade;
And, mingling with the jas'mine's pensile flower,
Fulfil the wishes of the mourning maid.

Here oft, when evening finks in fost repose, Shall Mason's numbers wake the slumbering grove;

Here, gentle Lucy shall recite the woes Of orphan beauty and unhappy love.

As tasteful sympathy enjoys the theme,
Fancy, the local landscape shall extend;
Bid Grecian fanes in dim perspective beam,
And Gothic arches mid the pine-trees bend.

Ye sportive fays, ye fine etherial forms,

Nymphs of the sun-beam, sylphids of the breeze;

Defend their foliage from untimely storms,

From blasting mildew save these votive trees.

Here, on this verdant turf, the tuneful queen all with attic grace her deathlefs long renews triving And patrice virtues confectate the scene, of the local and Mason's must be seen more a love-tale, which unight have been more as love-tale, which unight have been more

The chidings of a fincere lover are rarely formidable; and Miss Evans had an excuse to plead, which would have disarmed a fiercer resentment than ever glowed upon any occasion in Henry's breast. In the same moment he forgave her flight, applauded her motives, and promised to

affift her deligns. "I knew Fitzolborne while "I was in Italy," faid he; "our acquaintance "was but flight, yet I discovered enough to be " convinced that he mult be a dangerous inmate

a in any family.

But though Powerscourt possessed sufficient penetration to read the character of a marked vil lain, Edward's profound discernment had for. once led him to form an erroneous conclution. The society in which he had met Henry was compoled of persons whom the latter despiled for their folly, or detefted for their impiety; and convinced, that even the argumentative powers of the unrivalled Crichton would be in vain exerted against wilful error, he determined, by not treating them with a dispute, to suffer them to enjoy their fading poppy-garlands uncontested. Firzosborne had concluded, that the reason of his countryman's filence was his having nothing to fay; and he hailed the arrival of an antagonist at Monteith, whole speedy defeat would add to the already-exalted reputation which his scientific abilities had acquired among the rural esquires, feudal lairds, and officers in quarters, who frequented the earl of Monteith's table.

When Geraldine acquainted her friend with her cousin's expected arrival, his stile of commendation expressed his idea of his character. "O, Harry Powerscourt! I was acquainted

"with him abroad. A very honest, downright foul, with true English notions; he seemed

" always afraid of mixing with strangers. I " shall be very happy to see him again, for I en-

" joyed his fincerity.

"He is an exception then to the general ob-" fervation; for he is most honoured by those " who best know him," faid the countels. " We " effeein " esteem him a good scholar, and a very sensible

intelligent companion. a on our confining ourselves to the first definiw tion of words, or elfe our intentions are an-" higuous, I perceive that by my neglect of " this rule, you have mistaken mine. Mr. "Powerscourt has indisputably a very good plain "understanding, and I dare say he is an excel-"lent classical scholar. But pardon me if I say " he has never stepped out of the beaten track, " nor attended to what I should cal the concate-" nation of deductions, or confecutive effect of " given postulates; and from this want of ar-" rangement in his mental faculties, it follows, " of courfe, that he takes things as they are, " without examining from what causes the di-" feafer in the moral and natural world originate,

or how they may be remedied."

The counters understood as much of this fpeech as the speaker intended she should; and the could only lament her early inattention to logical fludies, which might have convinced her, as they had done Fitzosborne, that creation wanted to be new-modelled; and that the prefent age had more wisdom than all the preceding ones

taken collectively.

The intended coult atants now flood, like Homer's heroes, " panting for the fight," and impatient for the figual of engagement. Though the defire of victory alone would not have induced Powerscourt "to unlock his lips in such un-" hallowed air," the preservation of Geraldine from the mares of a seducer inspired him with a zeal warm even as that which Lucy Evans pof-fessed. But being tempered by superior judgment, he determined to appear, as if he rather adopted se effective

adopted an opinion from his observation of Fitzoffborne's behaviour, than came with a predetermined resolution of disliking what he was expected to admire.

Aware that it is much easier to assail the opinions of others, than to bring forward a well-digested system of your own, Fitzosborne determined to commence the attack. An opportunity soon offered for him to point some of those contemptible but blasphemous sarcasms which pass for wit, against the Old Testament, which insidelity is now pleased to term an indefensible outwork of the popular theology. A scandalous tale of a married nobleman had found its way into a public paper; Fitzosborne pointed it out to Monteith by a significant glance, while he, with the pleasure common to offenders on discovering a companion in guilt, honoured the wretched jest with which the paragraph concluded with a hearty laugh.

"What has entertained you, my lord," inquired the counters. "May we not partake of "your mirth?" Monteith hastily replied, that it would not amuse her; and Edward, tossing the paper among the other publications of the day, sagaciously observed, that the conduct of the present age corresponded more with the practices recorded by the Jewish classics than with the precepts of their austere lawgiver. "The offences," continued he, "which seem to give eclat to "those heroes who are recorded in the songs of their bards, are in their legislative code punish able with death, at least if we suppose these narrations literal. But we must allow, that the best critics, considering the allegorising temper of those people, are led to believe, that the whole compass of their literature is fabu-

adopted an opinion from his observation of Fire missing tod, bar supplied engage and but to which the day of the high to the present to the supplier of the su

Henry's heart throbbed with indignation; but he determined to wait his opportunity of interpoling when his audacious adverfary was thrown off his guard. Warm with affectionate znal for those truths from which her father had so often drawn infiructive moral lellous, and the most august views of superintending Providence gradually unfolding its amazing deligns, Mils Evans determined immediately to reply. "It cannot," thought the, "be any dereliction of female mo-" delty and delicacy to show an infidel that women may be courageous in a facred cause. "Even my father's avowed opinion, that we " ought to withdraw from controvertial topics, would change with the exigency of the present case, which calls me to repel the attacks of or profligacy and impiety united for the deltruc-

tion of my unsuspecting friend."

Determined by these reslections, she addressed Fitzosborne: "How long, sir, have these sagacious critics succeeded in convincing the world that their stile of reasoning was just? My father has devoted his whole life to the attainment of sacred learning; and I have heard him say, that the attempts of sceptics served but to confirm the stability of that heaven-erected

"The honour of an argument with Miss Evans," returned Edward bowing, " is too great a novelty for me to decline embracing it; and I cannot but lament that I have not been previously prepared for the contest, by having obtained a knowledge of the arguments by which the superior judgment of Mr. Evans was decided. I am myself a sincere friend to reli-

" gion, anxious for its real rights, and jealous co of its true honour; and as fuch I have been tempted to with that fome untenable points were fairly given up, and that the profound theologists of the present day would select those " passages which bear thronger marks of infpiration. I confess that I have often felt mortified " at feeing the abilities of the order exerted in the defence of those parts of the Tystem which were more prudently abandoned by candid dif-" putants."

"And I," faid Lucy, " have been mortified too, when I have feen religion degraded by a

" mock defence."

Mr. Powerscourt exulted in the blush of honest indignation which glowed on his Lucy's cheek, and enjoyed the temporary confusion of her adverfary. Fitze borne foon recovered; but, too much piqued to preferve the usual politeness of his manners, he begged Mifs Evans to have the goodness to repeat her father's observations. They would, he was fure, be entitled to respect; perhaps might operate to his conviction. Were they drawn from his perfect acquaintance with the Greek and Hebrew languages, or had he ftudied Syriac literature?

" I do not know," faid Lucy, sensible that this

attack was defigned to expose her.

"From chronology, natural philosophy, or hif-" tory? But I believe, madam, you are yourfelf

"miltress of those sciences."

Miss Evans's colour beightened with every interrogatory. There was a large party prefent, and the felt the cruelty of thus holding her out to general ridicule. She blamed her own temerity in having attacked a Proteus who could hide his native deformery in a thouland forms." B amajon wortom-of stoquetery

Henry felt her embarrallment top (trongly not to relieve it. "Do not distress yourself, Miss "Eyans," said he, "by endeavouring to recol-" lect your father's expressions. I had the hap-" pinels of being educated under his aufpices, and "I know the value of his opinion too well to " withhold it from those who define information."

"You were of Oxford, I think, fir," faid Fitzasborne, disconcerted by the determined coolness of Henry's manner. " Several of my "friends must have been your cotemporaries." He then enumerated a long hill, in which he took care to include the most conspicuous young men con erconer exalled in the blade 388 ship

"My time," faid Henry, "was chiefly de-"voted to study, and I formed few connections. "Supposing myself destined for orders, I appli-4 ed closely to the Greek and Hebrew languages. " and I made some progress in the Syriac. Lat-" tended all the lectures on natural philosophy; "and am not unacquainted with history and "chronology," His enumeration of the very tonics on which Fitzofborne had questioned Lucy was rendered more fignificant by the modulation of his voice. died Syrac literature

Fitzosborne bowed, and expressed an earnest with to cultivate his acquaintance. The bow was returned. "I thought, fir," added Henry, "that you were folicitous to receive a little infor-" mation respecting those arguments which in-"duced Mr. Evans to affirm, that investigation " had proved of inconceivable use in establishing " the authenticity of the Old Testament."

"I shall esteem it a particular favour if you " would inform me," replied Fitzelborne. " Can "you give me your company in the lib at for "that purpose to-morrow morning? The ladies

upon himfelf to procraftinate.) Fitzofborne must roll stedate adt gninguotber roll au shedt lliw."

the prefent, wo sid beween the prefent of the Powerscourt, I laid Powerscourt, " that the ladies are interested in the authenticity " of their bibles; and when any doubts are flart-"ed, explanations thould follow of course. By " your calling forth a lady to debate these points, " you must certainly join in my opinion, that the " cause of inspiration is perfectly safe in the hands " of that fex, who are accustomed to argue from "the feelings of an unvitiated heart, rather than " from the cold deductions of the understande perfugion of the gnise

"No one," refumed the evalive Fitzosborne, " can have a greater respect for female excel-"lence than myfelf; and before you profess "yourfelf the champion of fentiment, as appol-"ed to argumentative deductions, you should " foften the afperity which appears in your man-" ner, by remembering that I never attacked the couled by the inauthin bill or and in chariately

"Not in a direct way, I believe," faid Henry in a most animated voice, and at the same time leading the eye of his antagonish to the countes, who fat netting near them, feemingly engroffed by fome country vifitors, but really attentive to this convertation, we be bolled not say shred?

Edward felt fruck as by an electrical shock. Habitual referve could not prevent a fudden crimbefore from flushing his face; and his quickly withdrawn eye told a truth which he would willingly behave deoncealed; namely, that he understood 'a fort of gay licention nothing all yag do not a

Unable to purfue a theme where diffeyery menaced every word, and precluded from the fubbaterfuge which availed him in his former difpute with Mr. Evans (I mean a reference of the argu0

ment to some future time, which it depended upon himself to procrastinate, Fitzosborne must either have waited for Henry's attack on deiftical principles, or have renewed his own charge against the authenticity of the scriptures. He chose the latter. He began to lead back the conversation by fome flourishing compliments on the peculiar fluitability of religion to the female character; and the impression which every thing supernatural and elevated always made upon the delicate organs of their imaginations. His zeal to correfi the facred text the used the term correct upon the prefent occasion, in preference to his ulual expressions of reform or improve - proceeded from a fincere persuasion of the merits of leveral parts of the received canon, and a wish to expunge from it whatever might corrupt the delicacy of female readers, or harden their exquisite sensibility of the narration of some acts of more than favage brutality.

The simple manners and unrefined language of the earlier ages, replied Henry, are recorded by their faithful historians in characters of undifguifed veracity. Our ideas of decorum vary with the customs of the time and country; but vice and virtue are stationary. It may be a fubject of regret, that translators who render authors of very remote antiquity should think themselves compelled to give a verbal transcript of passages which might be safely paraphrased; ver, with respect to the bible, I observe, that fome of those interpreters who profess to avoid the faults which many years observation have discovered in our present copy, have substituted a fort of gay licentiousness in the place of the objectional groffness, much more offensive to the purity of the heart. Respecting your seflance in which the vindictive spirit of the Jews is pointed out to the imitation of succeeding ages, I should suppose their history might be studied even in a critical or historical point of view as an authentic monument of ages but for inspiration wholly obliterated, with less danger of rendering the feelings obdurate, than the page of Homer, or even the epic labours of that champion of antichristian liberality. Voltaire,"

'You forget," faid Fitzosborne triumphantly, the merit annexed to the extirpation of the Canaanites, and the extinction of Amalek. Such pretended injunctions from the beneficent Patent of the universe are with me a conclusive proof against the entire inspiration of the Old Testament."

'I read in those commands," replied Powers-court, 'an incontestable mark of Divinity. I recollect the state of society at that time, and I venerate the merciful severity which imprinted upon the minds of a small portion of mankind a renewed abhorrence of that cauel and degrading idolatry prohibited by one of the first commands which was imparted to the father of the Postdiluvian world. Surely, you, sir, forget the maxim of a poet whose misdirected muse is often quoted by our present deists to establish principles from which he would have shrunk with horror. If

"Acts not by partial but by general laws;

he is not bound by these rules of conduct which

determine the equity of the actions of imperfect, fhort-fighted, perishable man. He, in whose

hands are the iffues of life and death, cannot

the called upon by his creatures to snawer fur the Monerations of any of his inffruments of punishsment be they famine, peffilence, or war of To fulfil forme vaft delign, perfected perhaps centuries after its formation, the Jewish babe may bleed at Bethlehem, or the Catabrian infant be singulphed with fits parents by the defolating searthquake, without impeding the julice of the "Creator, with whom a thouland years are but as a day We finite creatures francing upon a little frech of time, cannot comprehend the plans of infinitude, which extend to eterning. Admit a future states and every idea of particu-Clar leverity vanishes. He who exists for ever can recompence the unoffending children of the idolatrous worthippers of Moloch with an hairpy immortality. He who knows the heart can erowh with perpetual blifs the conferentions affectors of a declining perfusion, whom the more pestilent fanaticism of infidelity immolated upon the banks of the Loire. The giver of reternal life can reward the patience he exercitet, t and amply repay the prematire privation of * my idolary probibited by sore hix draft was the

The company differed with profound attention. rouled by the folemn energy with which Mr. Powerfourt delivered thefe fentiments Miss Evans enjoyed the unaffected applaufe which appeared on every countenance. That of the lovely counters was lighted up by a most exhibitating finile, and her exulting heart whilpered; 'Ed-' ward fought conviction; furely he cannot refift ' the heavenly energy of Henry's heartfelt expref-Stons 3 ub The convertation was not continued dermine the ed was of the ediofosidulation.

Hor Eager to know if Ritzosborne's opinion of Powerscourt had been changed by this dispute,

Geraldine

Geraldine leized the earliest apportunity of affer ing hims if the had over-rated her kinfman's faith which shall one day be changed into cerainsm.

Nor in the least, was the reply. "He is certainly very eloquent, and he possesses some rommand of temper, a virtue rarely found samong your keen difputants. But I need not. Glady Monteith, explain to your fagacity the ex-'act point in which I could have pressed him, if politeness would have permitted me to have continued the argument. His whole reference is to infinitude and eternity, terms of which we bean form no clear ideas. He gives no politive proof, no mathematical demonstration of the inspiration which he tries to infer from contested positions; and till this is given by our choolmen, deifin may always reply, that insattention to those duties which are merely preferibed by revelation, admits of fome excule, if we confider the extreme doubt which attaches to these subjects; for if our present code of religion may be true, it may also be false.

But is there not a great difficulty, if not a total impossibility, of giving the satisfactory * proofs which you lay are required ? 25 the 20013

There, madam? faid Edward, is unhaps pily the ftrong hold of feepticitm, of which all the powers of orthodoxy bave not been able to disposses it. It is pleaded, and certainly with an air of reason, that if divine intelligence real-Ely dictated what we call revelation, it would carry with it incontestable proofs of its origin. by filencing every objection, and enforcing conviction upon every mind.

Cowardly lady Monteith! why, restrained by a fear of offending determined depravity, forbear affirming, that the gift of reason was never intended intended to supersede the practice of christian. graces? It was intended to confirm and affure that faith which shall one day be changed into certainty, to animate that hope which her boafted power could never clearly discover without divine guidance. Why fear to drive the mean diffimulator from the affected decency of deifm into the bold audacity of atheim, by alking how animated dust and alhes can prefume to question the power which called it into existence, demanding, Why hast thou made me what I am?" How intelligence confessedly finite can charge the counfels of that mind which pervades infinitude and extends through eternity, with inconfiftency in prescribing a rule of action to probationary beings. without at the fame time compelling observance? Why forbear to inquire how his favourite freewill can confift with such a scheme of government? Nay, bid him not ftop at the moral world; but fay, why earth is not heaven, and man an incorporeal effence, fuch as we believe the bleffed inhabitants of that better region. Restrained by the growing attachment which, though confined within the frictest bounds that the faccious affectation of Platonic affection could impole, and unacknowledged even to herfelf, certainly made Fitzofborne's approbation of colife? quence to her peace, lady Monteith forbore to oppose where the dreaded to offend; and the contented herfelf with wishing the mind of the most amiable of men to be relieved from those doubts which his convertations fometimes transfuled into her own bolom. Seide were ground it yet?

Cowardly lady Monteith It why restrained by a see of offered of commed degravity, forbear affirming that the gifteoff reasons was never behnetni F 3,

the second this in wastern authoritistion ?

without hope too, that Edward's pride, mortified by repeated defeats, might provoke him to
quit a refidence which continual opposition
raudt render disagreeable; and, stimulated by
the amerprizing waight of socere friendship,
the scareety calculated the chance of being called out by a man, who, on some previous occa-

Why, I can smile, and murder while I smile; and cry, 'Content' to that which grieves my heart; And wet my cheek with artificial tears; And frame my face to all occasions.

tuom s'oonus ant normalis.

THE dispute which occupied the preceding Chapter was not the only inflance of the triumph of manly sense and sound principle over sophistry, declaration, and hypocrist. Conficious of his advantage, Mr. Powerscourt at every opportunity pursued insidelity into its retreats of falchood. He expessed the credulity of disbelies, the inconfishency of scepticism, and the inconflusive suillity of every argument which dared to set up Nature in opposition to its Author.

change in Fitzosborne that Henry thus continued to dare him to the keen encounter of their wits; he knew from incorrestable authority, that those who love darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil, must constantly resist the elucidating ray of truth. It was the situation of the Monteiths which urged him to this continual warfare. He plainly saw the predilection of the countess, and the infatuation of her lord; and he vainly withed for that warning voice which might arouse them to a consciousness of their danger. He was not

without

without hope too, that Edward's pride, mortified by repeated defeats, might provoke him to quit a residence which continual opposition must render disagreeable; and, stimulated by the enterprizing warmth of sincere friendship, he scarcely calculated the chance of being called out by a man, who, on some previous occations, had proved himself to be similar to the proved himself to the proved himself to the proved himself to

Jealous of honour, fudden and quick in quartel; Seeking the bubble reputation Even in the cannon's mouth.

THE SHOWS

But the patience and humility which Edward exercifed upon this occasion was as wonderful as this perfeverance. Let not the reader conclude that I give him credit for those virtues; for it cannot be supposed that he would adopt qualities which he efteemed to be weak imperfections. He nied them only as the means which were fanchified by the propoled end. Taught by his recent defeat to abitain from attack, he contented himfelf with barely attempt ing a defence, when Powerscourt presign him with fome powerful inference; always, taking care that fomething in his expression, look, or manner, Thould convey to the quick apprehenfion of Geraldine a hint of unfair treatment; an infimuation of his love of peace; and a complaint that this adversary began the delate, and that it was unjust to feek to deprive him of his own opinions; when he did not malest others in the squiet enjoyment of their peculiar notipredilection of the counter, and the infatuation

ples were better calculated than herfelf to enjoy

and impart the nameless delights of conversatibit! Whether we define it, according to the Heas of the Swan of Twickenham, to be the feaft of realon and the flow of foul; or, personifying its exhibitaring graces, describe it in the likeness of Milton's Euphrolyne, buckfome, blithe, and debonaire, ver ftill the affociate of unreproved pleafure; in whichever thape the goddess prefides, the irritating spirit of contradiction, and the leaving genius of continual argument, must be proferibed admiffion, or the fweets of the mental banquet will be foured by fermentation. The relaxed mind cannot repose upon the bosom of considence, and pour forth all its choicelt flores, when every expression rouses the clamour of opposition. The dimpled finite of sportive mirth is too timid to encounter the authere aspect of declamatory investigation and ut or bandbe at

Such were the reflections of Geraldine, who, driven by conjugal infelicity to feek amusement out of herself, had fondly hoped that the most refined focial pleasures would refulr from the friends of her early youth meeting with the accomplished intelligent Fitzosborne. She had anticipated the delights of literary converfation, the corufcations of playful wit; and, while the enjoyed with fincere pleasure the prospect of her Lucy's happines, the deterinined to divert herfelf with the little aukwardnesses which the presence of a beloved object generally gives to the manner of a young woman pollefied of a delicate susceptible mind. Instead of these expected luxuries, the demon of Dispute took possession of the dining-room and the falcon; accompanied their walks and rides, their fishing parties and mountain tours; and,

and, instead of leaving the mind of the countels at liberty to entertain her guests with something enchantingly whimbeal, or negligently elegant, her anxiety was perpetually exercised to represe every topic of discourse which threatened contention.

Perhaps Geraldine overcharged this description She was also millaken in fixing the whole blame of this controverful foirit upon: Henry More accustomed to Edward's style of convertation, and less aware of its tendency, he could at any time drop the gage of defiance without arrefting her attention, till the reply of his antagonist called her to divert the rising florm. Her infensibility of her own danger, and confequent ignorance of the confcientious motives which urged Mr. Powerfcourt to violate the preseribed rules of good breeding frictly adhered to in polished fociety, precluded her from framing any excuses in his justification. That eternal gratitude which the had promised to preserve for the generous friend who had facrificed his own happiness to her's, imperceptibly abated, as the conviction that the had founded her hopes of connubial felicity on a wrong basis gathered frength. On the other hand, the recent services of Fitzosborne. and the marked contrast between him and her lord, hourly made a deeper impression; and her disapprobation of what the thought cavalier behaviour increased ther indifference for the ofociety of Lucy and her lover. Real efteem dould not be weakened; but affection fenfibly declined, at least so far as to make her wish them married and happily fettled at Powerfcourt.

Geraldine's estrangement from her once-

Finzolborne's Juggeftions. However appignantly his feelings might be wounded, the seas too gee nerous to complain a and respect for the relation of his fair friends withheld him from anfwering his perfecutor as most gentlemen would do. As some of his own notions had a tendence to democracy he could not confidently hint the humble fituation of Henry's father, as a reason why his son was pust, to mix with men of rank. Befide, he recollected that he had paffed through the purifying ordeal of a college education, which always confumes every particle of plebeian infection; and that he could not cast an oblique censure on his origin without involving the reputation of the high-feateds . Powerscourts ancestry He therefore never uttered a farcafm of the kind i nav he even once attempted to fosten Geraldine's displeafure, who confessed herself to be a little hurt at her coulin's behaviour, by observing, that Mr. Powerfcourt's early connections might not have led shim into very polished fociety and that habit was an irrelifible enemy to that amenity of manners which marked the gentlemant amoi

But though thus cautious with respect to the counters, the daring genius of Fitzosborne winged a bolder slight with her credulous lord. He too retained but a faint remembrance of the merit of the felf-denying, accommodating rival, who had refigned the girl he loved to his happier yows. He forgot the dejection and subsequent illness which spoke the anguish of the facrifice; and no longer finding, that the possession of that blessing which the generous Henry reluctantly refigned had consisted his own happiness, he was prepared to look upon him as he would upon any other guest, and to regulate

regulate his behaviour to him, not by a fente of gravitude or lefteem, but by the prefent amulement he received from his conversation. I have sufficiently explained lord Monteith's character for my readers to anticipate my confession, that his powers of discrimination were very limited to Interactly having controverly, which he not unaptly talled quarrelling, if he could not contrive, by playing with his dogs or his children, to make sufficient noise to prevent himself from heaving the dispute, he rang the bell for his horses and took a ride.

He had purfued this method twice before the hint was understood, a futhcient excuse for the total loss of patience which followed.-Deceived by his own impetuality, and fome infinuations of Firzofborne, he miltook the part which the counters acted upon these occasions, which was generally that of a mediatrix; for, though inclination led her to join with Edward, especially when he more nicely affected the plaufible, yet if Henry, by prefling his arguments close, furpriled his opponent in the avowal of fome bold teners, Geraldine could not refrain from expressing her approbation of the champion of fleady principle. Lord Monteith once entered the room, when every tongue was loud in declaiming against some positions which Fitzofborne had just attempted to maintain on the Subject of education in They were, that as it is prefumptuous to affert, that obedience to parents is any thing more than the preference of reafon enforced by affection, the child ought to lead its own studies, and the parent or instructor follow; for youth should enjoy perfect liberty, and be led to knowledge not by authority, but by inclination. His fordflip had no difficution regulatell

to give himself the trouble of understanding the debate. He heard something of the cruelty of debarring innocent infants of the liberty with which nature had endowed them, and he saw every one united in condemning Fitzosborne. He was an advocate for children enjoying themselves, and he never either restrained or corrected his own, except when they interrupted his particular pursuits. He was, beside, strongly impelled to support Fitzosborne, who was now become absolutely necessary to him in the double capacity of a statterer and an adviser.

The earl took a chair; obtained the lead in conversation; and soon made himself master of the field by silencing all opposition. He cast a look of triumph round him. What; said be to Geraldine, have you not one word left to defend your opinion? You was haranguing very learnedly, and laying down a system of management which you meant to adopt—with James, I suppose; but as I may not converse with you upon this subject again, I would advise you to give it up, for I shall never allow it. You have broke the spirit of the poor girls already by your lessons and your punishments; and I shall educate the boy according to my own plan.

The countess answered by an acquiescent smile; but his lordship had talked himself into a sit of indignation, which some domestic perplexities secretly increased. He arose, and, giving his chair rather a whirl than a push, stalked out of the room.

Every one who has witnessed little conjugal rencontres knows, that it is the business of by-standers to take no notice of the passing scene, but to exert the happiest address to divert the at-

tention

tention of the parties engaged to some new subject. Geraldine's starting tears were represed by Lucy's observing, that an uncommonly beautiful butterfly refted upon the chimney-piece; and at the same instant Henry called her to re mark the characteristic style of excellence which distinguished Titian's paintings. Fitzosborne was lost in dejected filence. He however role, as it to examine the picture which Henry had pointed out; and fancying his attention engrolled by the butterfly hunt, which Mils Evans enlivened by a hundred humorous observations, he whispered to the still-agitated countels, as he passed her; Dear suffering meckness! shall I follow him, and try to calm his favage frenzy?" the faintly articulated, 'Yes,' and her champion instantly withdrew. A thought that moment ftruck the countels, that his interpolition might add to the passion which quiet self-restection would best subdue. The colours of nature or of Titian could no longer give a transitory diverfion to the pangs of thought. The hitherto restrained tears burst from her eyes, and the hasti-

ly flew after Fitzosborne.

1 That man is a villain, faid Henry to his Lucy, who was now the only person remaining

with him in the room.

'I never doubted it,' said she, relinquishing the just-vanquished buttersly. 'But have you any fresh proofs?' Powerscourt repeated the whisper which he had distinctly overhard.

Omy lovely, enchanting Geraldine, how perilous is thy fituation! exclaimed Mifs Evans; between a husband insensible of thy virtues, and a pretended friend who is determined to undermine them!

birA sexert the hoppielt address to divert the at-

And how, fatally insensible of her danger continued Powerfdourt inght in My right brundles

Are there no means to fave hen? laft sara I have tried what to my judgment appeared to be the most probable, and I have purfued them · beyond the bounds which regard for the decorum of my own character would have imposed. I have clearly detected his principles, and, I fometimes liones armed the countels against their feductive poifons an But I cannot remove him from Monteith He endures my perfecution with a patience which convinces me that be will not be provoked to retreat; and I have no influence either with the earl or Geraldine. What can prevent her from every day, hay every hour, perceiving the strong contrast between his foft, infinuating, polished manner, and the inconfiltent uninformed-I

had almost said-creek deportment of her much-altered lord? You fee, Edward himfelf s draws the parallel? against side ding hel "

And our beloved friend feels it," added Lucy Can there be a stronger proof of his defigns than the whisper which you just overheard?" Yes, replied Powerfcourt, there is a ftronfiger. She is lovely and attractive as fancy ever feigned. And what shall induce that man to relift the power of her clearing, who has filenced the reftraints of confeience, who fears no future retribution, and who has fuffif cient cunning to elude the pecuniary punishments which our laws award to his licentious crimes? Hourly exposed to the blaze of Geraldine's perfections, indulged by a credulous husband with every opportunity for feducing her honour, he must feel the fascination of her beauty and her merit. Nay, his attentions Sito prove, prove, even to casual observers, that he does feel them. My right hand neighbour at the

earl's last public dinner, asked me, Who is

this Mr. Fitzofborne " I told him, an admirer

of lady Arabella Macdonald. I am very

e glad to hear that, faid the blunt enquirer;

for we country people fancied he made love

to the countefe and beleesh

Lucy determined to tell her friend this story, and Powerscourt approved the suggestion. Be careful, however, said he; alarm her delicacy, but not her pride. Convince her, that it is only strangers that can doubt her rectitude; that she owes the immediate dismission of Fitzolborne to the judgment of the world, not to the opinions of those friends who know her worth, and who deem it almost impossible that she should fall.

And fo it is, faid Mils Evans with energy.

I defy all the traitor's arts to allure her to wil-

· ful guilt. She cannot feel any real predilec-

tion in his favour.

Ah, Lucy, interrupted Henry, we foon cease from the persecuting attentions which we find displease the object of our pursuit.'—Lucy asked him whether he learned that maxim of her or Geraldine; and the conversation

changed to a more agreeable topic.

In the mean time lady Monteith had overtaken Fitzosborne, and, sinding her persuasions to induce him to abandon his design of reproving her lord for his petulance inessectual, she extorted from him an engagement, that he would act with the gentlest caution. This agreement, like the promises of the weird sister to the guilty Thane of Cawdor, was kept to the ear, but broken to the sense: The caution was exercised

SIA.

cifed for his own fecurity, and the gentleness.

was the refined covering of simulation.

He had that day made himself matter of a fecret, the discovery of which would, he knew, point the whole torrent of the earl's fretful impatience against the counters and Mr. Powerfcourt. I have frequently stated, that lord Monteith's natural character ftrongly partook of generolity and benevolence. These noble sensations, blunted by felfishness and inconsideration, were now effectually chilled by the embarraffments attendant on perplexed circumstances; and his irritable temper was continually fretted by the representations of his agents, and the folicitations of his creditors. It was to fome harraffing occurrences of this nature, that his late behaviour to the countels must be ascribed; and the moment he left the room, his fense of her meek sufferance added to his torment. He flung himself upon the bank of the canal which wound round the managerie, and was beginning to yield to that tranquillity of mind which the warbling birds, the waving trees, and the calm fplendour of a mild autumnal fun, inspired, when Fitzosborne feated himself by his fide.

When do you cut a communication between this canal and the lake?' inquired he. The

earl only answered by a profound figh.

O You told me, refumed his tormentor, that vou had fuch a delign. You also mentioned your intention of levelling a small emmence which intercepts your view of the Grampian hills.

Stung by the recollection of those plans of princely magnificence by which he had once intended to embellish the feat of his ancestors, broliverted from your puries from to do with it?

lord Monteith could only answer by execrating the dice-box.

My good friend, faid Fitzofborne, why perfilt in teazing yourself with useless recol-

lections of past misfortunes? Let us look for-

ward to the fature. You have noble expec-

tations. Sir William Powerledurt cannot in

the coarse of nature live long .- But I believe I hould not have entered upon that

painful fubject.

Lord Monteith, who at that instant felt the milery of straitened circumstances too strongly to regard with forrow the death of an old man who would leave him a handsome fortune, inquired, why he should think it such a painful event? There is a great deal of whimfical s goodness about the old baronet, added he; 4 but people cannot live for ever.'

I did not suspect you of the puerility of s grieving for his death," faid Edward fmiling.

I allude to the awkward circumstances in

which you will be placed at his demife."

'Is coming into the peffession of five thousand

fo avyear an awkward circumstance?" and W.

No; but I think I should not like to be the mere steward of my wife and children I

should rather like to have the expenditure di-

Frected by myfelf?

and And who elfe will direct it? inquired the

early railing himfelf from the ground. As Aw -

· Possibly you have some influence over the o part which is fettled upon your daughter or o your unborn fon; but the two thousand asyear which the counters disposes of will be torally "diverted from your purfe."

Why, what does she mean to do with it?"

Are you really ignorant of her designs then?
I must have been missiformed. Repeated entreaties drew from Fitzosborne what he now termed a mere guels of his own, arising from the peculiar warmth of the countels in her friendships; namely, that it was intended to increase the opulence of Mr. Powerscourt and his bride. Then, looking attentively on the earl, he inquired what bloody passion shook his very frame; and he entreated him not to be discomposed at his idle suppositions; at least, to pass the matter in silence till it was better confirmed. My lord promised; but his behaviour to Mr. Powerscourt became, in confequence, so strikingly inhospitable, that the latter soon found himself compelled to leave a family, in which, independent of his attachment to his Lucy, the liveliest feelings of his heart were now centered.

Instead of obtruding his keen sense of Monteith's extraordinary behaviour upon the observation of the counters, he contrived to give his departure the air of choice; and he declined with an air of regret rather than pique Geraldine's faint invitation to spend another week with them. He had, however, entrusted Miss Evans with his real fentiments. I am convinced,' faid he, 'that the earl is but the pupe pet of the treacherous Fitzosborne on this occasion. There are some masterly but dia-· bolical machinations on foot which I cannot develope. My continuing here can be of no fervice; indeed it is impossible, considering the treatment which I hourly experience. No effort of mine could thake the confidence which this credulous tool of fubtle villainy reposes in the betrayer of his peace.

" you,

a you, therefore, my Lucy, the Guardian angel,

and watch over your much-endangered, too confident friend. I know your zeal and your unshaken fidelity; but I fear you will be called

upon for exertions which will put your forti-

tude to the feverelt trial. Endure the altered

looks of your Geraldine; even brave her re-

bouring under the impulse of a faral delution,

4 and that her returning reason must bless the hand which fnatches her from destruction.

I know, Henry,' replied Lucy, 'that I shall

continually want your directing judgment.

O that we had her fafe at Powerscourt! How

would we join to pour the balm of friendship

con her wounded foul ! stand bound pool.

Cannot you, faid Henry, plead a little

a pardonable caprice, and fay you have made a refolution not to confirm my happiness till

the dear companion of our youth is prefent,

to fee your father knit the folemn bond which

will make you for ever mine?" pdl 10 none

"I know not," cried Lucy, giving her hand to her lover with a faint smile, what folly

I would not affect to fave my Geraldine.

Evans with his result vitiments, at am convinced, daid her tring the earl is but the punnot of the tradectory Fitzosborne on this occasion. There are forme marterly but diabolical gradimations on foot which I cannot develope. My continuing here can be of no lervice is indeed at its ampoliale, confidering the treasment which I bear we not ence. No

client of mare could thank the confidence

which this creditions took of frotler villains c. AAHO, in the betrayer at his peace, Be .vov.

lodging her in one of the turret chambers, though the primary reason for doing so had been, that it was the nearest to her own.

Lucy experiently all the trips Thich Henry had predicted; but the recollected, that the had determined to endure them. "Let the world

Is all the counsel that we two have shared,
The filter's vows, the hours that we have spent,
When we have chid the tardy footed time
For parting us; O and is all forgot?
All school days friendship, childhood innocence?

And will you rend our ancient love afunder?

SHARESPEARE.

IT is a general observation, that ceremony increases as affection declines. Conscious of the unkindness which we blush to avow, we poorly attempt to disguise our inconstancy by a parade of words, without considering that we betray our hypocrify by a scrupulous regard to those minutiae, to which, while our hearts glowed with real regard, we were too much occupied to attend.

In proportion as lady Monteith felt the pleafure she took in Miss Evans's society really diminish, she was more observant in her hospitable attentions, not with a view to deceive, but from the more generous motive of wishing to avoid giving pain. Though she would not have felt any uneasiness to have seen her accompany Henry back to Caernarvonshire, she expressed a lively sense of her Lucy's goodness in remaining. She was ever featful at dinner that her friend was not taken good care of; and though Miss Evans had made repeated visits to Monteith, it now first occurred to the counters, that there was an impropriety in lodging lodging her in one of the turret chambers, though the primary reason for doing so had been, that it was the nearest to her own.

Lucy experienced all the trials which Henry had predicted; but she recollected, that she had determined to endure them. "Let the worst come,' said she, 'that my fears predict, her heart can never be vitiated. The moment the seducer pulls off the mask, she will detect him; and as the delusion vanishes, her sufficentials those real friends

who strove to fratch her from destruction.

Vice is never secure, even when triumphant. Let earth and hell conspire to favour its designs, nothing is so mean, nothing so cowardly as guilt. The removal of Powerscourt was a grand point gained; but the watchful, fearlefs. determined Lucy remained; and though Fitzofborne perceived her influence hourly decline, he felt her presence to be an impediment to his concluding machinations. He could not banish her, as he had done Henry, by the agency of the earl; for the whim of the moment always predominated with that nobleman. The inconveniences which he fancied he fuffered from a controversial propensity, produced his resolution of driving his guest from Monteith; and though the suspicion, that Henry was intended to inherit a large portion of fir William's estate gave that determination immediate action, it was confidered separately as a circumstance which lord Monteith's generofity would have entirely difregarded in a lefs embarrafied state of his own affairs. He well knew that Miss Evans was intended to share in his lady's liberality; but the was less objectionable to him, on the important account of her never attempt-Vol. II.

rangues; but a piquant retort was his delight, and the was peculiarly happy at repartee. Her sprightly unaffected manner, and comparative ignorance of fashionable life, amused him: and she had long borne him a degree of affection as being the hulband of her friend. She esteemed his good qualities; and her concern for the delusion under which he laboured induced her to be even more than usually attentive to his

humour, and indulgent to his follies oggalibe in

But though Fitzofborne was thus compelled to leave Monteith out of his counsel, and Lucy refused to read a wish for her removal in the fickly funshine of her Geraldine's languid fmiles, he refolved, that other means thould expedite her departure. A project was therefore contrived. The evening before its completion, lord Monteith had devoted to his increasing love for Bacchanalian indulgences. The hour was late, but madeira and burgundy preserved their attractions. The joyous party had fent excuses to the countels for not joining her in the faloon; and Geraldine, after fupporting a languid evening with her two friends, (for Fitzofborne had early pleaded indisposition as a reason for leaving the noisy Anacreontics,) retired to her own apartment. moustioned floures

She was here encountered by her favourite attendant, who with much reluctances and want affurances that the would not have taken fuch a liberty, but that the really had already advanced all her own money to the diffrested parties, presented a petition from the work men who had been employed in laying the foundation of the amphitheatre which was begun in the park. They were now reduced to

leading

distriction from their employment, but by the non-payment of wages already due. Maria declared, that her father and brothers were of the number; and the many anecdotes of authentic suffering which she recited, and traced to this culpable remissiness, swelled the seeling heart of Geraldine with indignation and pity.

'My lord, faid the, is promised to pay all the

the disappointment I caused the workmen, by

giving up the design before they had sinished the work they had contracted to execute. It

must be the steward's fault. Is he up? I will

' speak to him immediately.' to said not vistal

There was a light in his office when your

· lady hip rang the bell.' surrange rad subsucce

he is very old and infirm; I will go to him.

The result of the conversation was not at all to the counters's satisfaction. She found that the delay was wholly attributable to her lord, who had infilted that the appropriated sums should be transmitted where the claims were less just, but more clamorous. The steward mentioned many other circumstances which increased her agitation, and he answered her earnest solicitations that these bills might be immediately discharged, by pleading that it was totally impossible to advance what was not in his possession.

Geraldine returned towards her own apartment, ruminating on what measures she could pursue, and determining privately to dispose of some of her mother's jewels, rather than that the helpless babes of the labourer should want bread. While she was crossing the gallery

G 2

leading

leading from the stair-case, the loud but indistinct noise of catches and glees inarticulately sung, and interrupted by applauding clamours, or reproving oaths, issued from the banquetting room. She stopped for a moment, and fancied that she heard Monteith's voice. Has he then, said she, lost all the seelings of humanity, as well as all sense of refined pleasure? Compassion, nay justice demands, that the waste of riot should have been appropriated to nobler ends.

Her eye then glanced towards the library, which was at the end of a fuite of rooms opposite to where she stood. The door was open, and she saw Fitzosborne sit with a book in his hand in a posture of fixed attention. She never felt the power of contrast so strong before; and a momentary impulse almost tempted her to tear from her singer the witness of that bond

which had fealed her mifery.

Still Fitzosborne continued to read, and Geraldine, leaning over the balustrade, still alternately looked and listened. O splendid wretchedness. Said she, gazing on the marble sigures which decorated the stair-case, and the richly carved roof, now rendered more conspicuous by the coloured lamps which hung from every pediment; the lonely villager, whom we abridge in his scanty enjoyments, curses this parade of luxury; and the curses of the injured will one day come into judgment against their proud oppressors.

Still indulging her melancholy feelings, the countels contemplated the composure of Fitz-osborne's looks. All must be right, said she, in his bosom. He is neither tortured by remorfe nor fear; and can what I have heard

morie nor tear; and can what it have heard of

of the iceptic's wretched flate be just? Per-whaps at this moment I should feel lome confolation in thinking, that the great Author of the universe is too much engrolled by his own perfections to take cognizance of things be-low; for then I need not fear his avenging the wrongs of indigence." At that instant the cries of her little son in the nursery threw her thoughts into a different train. Ah! my poor babes, resumed she, whatever is my own lot, a mother must, for your sakes, hope that there is a special Providence to protect your helplets infancy.'
Fitzofborne now role, and, advancing to-

wards her, interrupted her mulings. 'For Heaven's fake, dearest lady Monteith! what: keeps you up at this late hour ?'- My for-rows, replied the counters, burfting into

tears.

' I hoped,' returned Edward, affectionately pressing her hand, that they were hushed in oblivion. Permit me to lead you from the hearing of these offensive revellers. It is too

Thocking to refined delicacy like yours.

Geraldine inquired where they should go? and Fitzolborne proposed the garden. 'Comus of this place will not lead his band of wallailers there, faid he. . The meaner organs of these satyrs are only capable of en-' joying the groffest animal gratifications. don my allusion. I have just been enraptured by the sublime bard's description of revel joility. How different is the brutal vociferation which we hear from these rapturous ideas:

Braid your locks with rofy twine, olod aid at Dropping doors, dropping wine, ton shom

He placed himself purposely in the Rigin rary

. And Advice with ferup lous head. Hoy tadt

By dimpled brook, and fountain brim,

The Wood Nymphs deckt with duffies trim,

Their merry wakes and pattimes keep :

What hath night to do with fleep? m nov

His further quotation was here interrupted by the appearance of Miss Evans, who, declaring the evening was much too beautiful to think of going to bed, proposed joining them in their excursion into the garden. They took a short and sient turn under the colonade, and then retired to their apartments.

Miss Evans was at her chamber door. I am

haunted, my dear Geraldine," faid she, by

fome very disagreeable company; my own

thoughts I mean. Will you allow me to lose

Lady Monteith defired her maid to retire, and the two friends fat for a few moments gazing

at each other in expressive filence. vino iliv

Mis Evans first spoke: There was a time,

never wanted a subject for conversation. That

confidence is past, I see; yet I will neither lament nor complain. But for your own,

for your dear children's fake, let not any re-

vir cently-discovered fault in me sinduce I you to

flight the important discoveries that I can re-

not quite well, brought me this night to wit-

e ness a suller confirmation of Fitzosborne's

Both thrangely altered by untinalling the

What villany?' inquired Geraldine with unaltered countenance.

He placed himself purposely in the library,

that you might les him. driw sold bad.
What then the brook, and four then the brook, and four the banqueting.
I firmly believe too, that the banqueting. room door was fer open by his order, that vou might hear the confusion and and w

And was not lord Monteith most to blame

His further quotati Konoila inosciant stuce of

had bedo not vindicate my lord. . O, my fainted . mother tiff I could but breathe the energy of thy differning spirit into my dear unsuf-

yearfor into the garden busin subsident

ded Inever knew that Mrs. Evans thought ful-

re picion a virtue. singuirant risali of be

She never would have suffered an audacious man to have offended her ears with reflec-

tions on my father's conduct. Though mild,

and patient of reproofs to herfelf, her quick

fusceptibility of his honour-

You furely do not recollect, interrupted lady Monteith, that the comparison you have started is most exquisitely painful to me. I

will only fay, that the regularity of your father's conduct disproved flander. Do you ein draw the inference. The tears which at that instant streamed from her eyes avowed her torconfidence is past. I see, yet irrad bouther

My sweetelt Geraldine! can I witness those " ytears, and not with to relieve thy forrows?"

of usyThen feek not to deprive me of my only flight the important discoveries thanhaintine-

at oder Your daly friend! How is your style of and of expression changed! What then am I? Softwhat is Henry Powerlcourt ? Tal a stan

Both strangely altered by unjust suspici-

What villany? inquired Geraldiento with

TuOn unaltered countenan

153 · Our suspicions are not pointed at you. We - mand what you are pure, and guiltless of the and friend Intentional Fault. You We grieve to fee your candour betrayed, your unfulpecting innocence insnafelt, your reputation blasted."

you once told me my conduct sufficiently disproved?

No! no! my heart is a stranger to designed cruelty to any one, and least of all to you. It is not to the attacks of malignity, it is to the conclusions of guileless simplicity, that I refer.' She then repeated the observations which were addressed to Mr. Powerscourt at the public dinner.

Must I then, aid the counters, clear my character to the world by throwing treble odium upon my lord's? or, must I renounce the only companion who feems studious to sweeten the bitter cup of anguish which I now drain to the dregs? Am I to publish the obligations which I owe to Ritzosborne? obligations which would justify me in every one's opinion; or fit a lone, folitary, flighted being

in this magnificent prison? The post su aniodio.

Lucy now melted into tears. Does your palace, your bower of blifs, as you once ftyled it, now receive that appellation? O' what has wrought this dreadful change ? It is not quite a twelvemonth fince your own dear hand-writing to me traced thefe firong expressions. I enjoy as much happiness as experience teaches us to expect in this uncertain world. I possess my husband's affec-" tionate confidence, the esteem of my friends, the the

A TALE OF THE TIMES.

the love of my dependants. With what heartfelt transport, my Lucy, do I tell you, that
lord Monteith scems every hour more firmly attached to me and his children. You know his
manner is singular. It once gave me pain, but
reflection has reconciled me to it, and I discover,
even in his eccentricities, indubitable marks of
an excellent heart. Do not wring your hands,
my love! I do not recree this passage to awaken
your poignant feelings, but to convince your
judgment.

Mis Evans paused; the countess was unable to

fpeak, and she proceeded.

Can all this ruin originate from chance?

Can your lord withdraw his affection, his con-

'fidence, nay even treat you with severity, with-'out some tempter? Trust me, my Geraldine,

Fitzosborne were indeed your friend, the in-

Syour imperious lord must be apparent and

produce the most opposite behaviour."

In what, faid Geraldine, recovering herfelf, do you perceive this influence? does lord Mon-teith ever coincide with Fizosborne's senti-

coforne is too subtle to let me ever hear his real sentiments; but I read them restleted in the bundiforments; but I read them restleted in the bundiforments; but I read them restleted in the bundiforments; but his artful favourite, a soprobation of the warm and uniform in his approbation of the warm and uniform in his approbation of the warm and uniform in his approbation of the warm and deference which I never subserved him to shew to any one else, except to syou in those happy days when you reigned the wardisputed sovereign of his heart. You, and

I am not in his confidence esw ad daidword sula an not in his connecnce imperceptibly led to comply with your wifes, multi know, that the delicate management which his temper requires can only be visible to others by its effect woq

For what purpose should Edward wish for this ascendancy over lord Monteith?" inquired

the countels diw id

In my opinion for the most diabolical purpofe-to alienate his heart from you, and to induce him to treat you with fuch unkindness, as may subvert, in your mind, those sentiments of affection and esteem which, next to the princioples of duty and honour, form the strongest guards of female purity. Nay, hear me one moment more. I very audacious whifper which he utters against your husband, every look of ' artificial tendernels by which he dares to recommend bimjelf, are employed to batter down the fame defence, while his atheistical infinuations tend to repress the compunctions of confrience, and to weaken that principle of relie gion upon which your fafety principally de-

Before you draw fuch harth conclutions, Miss Evans,' said the offended counters, 'you hould describe what parts of my conduct will, in your opinion, expose me to the indignity of a Licentious address. I must also add, that as your indement of Mr. Fitzosborne seems to be too decided to be the mere refute of suspicion, I have a right to hid you prove, that he feels for me a bolder fentiment than pity or esteem. he is what you describe, instead of being the

s ornament of fociety, he is its difgrace.

Do recollect, replied Lucy, that I give him credit for the deepest contrivance, the most · profound

"The only politive proofs which I can bring against him are, your present whetchedness, his influence both over lord Monteith and yourself, and his avowed infidelity?"

You and Mr. Powerfcourt have ever given that harth name to a fingularity of opinion which your candid father only suspected of leaning to deism. All doubt with you appears to be a crime, and a differt from your notions on some important but mysterious point subjects your ill-fated opponent to the most confirmed imputation of the blackest guilt, even though his whole previous conduct evinces a course of almost unfinning rectitude and exemplary virtue.

O my Geraldine! I will urge you but this once more. Is is from himfelf that you hear of this unfinning rectitude and thin ng virtue? His character is comparatively unknown in his country. Abroad it was efteemed to be far from immaculate. His conftant affectates were men of loofe principles and profligate manners.

It is from Henry Powerscourt that you learned this catalogue of vices? inquired Geraldine with a resentful air.

Henry Powerlount whom we both to tenderly elteem; the dear companion of our early happy years, those years of confidence, tranquillity, and mutual affection. O lady Monteith! how exquisitely painful is that reflection now. Hear me yet on my bended knees; hear my folemn request. Mine is no display of officious zeal, no false colouring of a hollow heart. If I have erred, it is from a mistaken judgment; and punish

na punilly me as that crime deferved. Yet, my essever beloved friend! do not let your confidence in in your own differ ment lead you into danger. It is not because I suspect your virtue that I thus impressively warm your but it is because I consider you to be surrounded with snares which, without divine protection, no mortal can estable and to that protection I commend you in my most earnest prayers 24th estables on won.

Vanquished by this affectionate appeal, Geraldine raised her Lucy, and folded her in her arms. The reconciliation was as sincere as it was affecting. The countes protested, that though she could not adopt her opinions of a man whom she had studied with unremitting attention, she yet gave entire credit to the sincerity of her motives; and Miss Evans hoped, that the communication, which had somewhat relieved her burdened mind, would not be entirely forgotten in the hours of calm resection. They then parted, after mutually engaging to name this affecting subject no more.

Mils Evans's thoughts were diverted the next morning to a subject yet more poignantly diffresfings and which as the matter-forrow, swallowed up every other care. A letter from her father's house keeper announced, that he was alarmingly ill, and requefted her immediate prefence at Powerfcourt. This letter flung her into fuch violent emotions, that the had not felf-command lufficient to reflect upon fome very extraordinary circumstances which accompanied it. The flyle and the writing were greatly superior to Mrs. Mary's usual performances. This was, indeed, accounted for in the postfcript, which stated, that being ashamed of her poor scrawl, she had got the clerk to copy it, and to rectify the fpelling.

fpelling. The excuse was more conspicuous than . sche biriting a for Mass Maty and the clerk were not upon good terms, and it feemed extraordinary. that a faithful confidential fervant should think of fuch minute explanations when a beloved mafter lay in the utmost danger, and requiring all her active services of Where too was Henry & Was it not natural for him to write to his Lucy? and how improbable, that he should permit another pen to transcribe his message that he wished her to return instantly In The alarm which the letter excited prevented the confideration of these contradictory particulars of Mile Evans was in the chaife on her return to Caernarvonshire in half an hour after it arrived a nor was it till her anxiety for her father was relieved by finding that the whole narrative was an infamous imposition, that the began to be surprised at her own want of penetration in not immediately discovering it to be for A statement of this fact, which seemed to convey some fresh indications of Fitzosborne's guilt, was immediately dispatched to Monteith. and Henry Powerscount undertook to be the courier. His generous heart braved every indignity and every danger; nor could even his Lucy's apprehensive terrors diffuade him from defying the refenement of a man whom the believed to be capable of adding murder to his other crimer. The preservation of his once-fondly loved, and fill-tenderly esteemed Geraldine, overpowered all regard for his own personal safety. But his generous intentions were frustrated by the events which had happened at Monteith previous to his atrivaldT to Miss Mary's ufual performances. indeed, accounted for in the postfeript, -which stated, that being alhamed of her poor foraul, the TARO the clark to copy it, and to rectify the fpelling

ner picture, and he had just rejected the proposal of an advantageous alliance with the rich heires of an Islamix chiquann This constancy, shough from the discordance of their character scarcely attributable to the caprices of love, proved

O much deceived, much failing, hapless Eve!

Of thy presum'd return! event perverse!

Thou never from that hour in paradise

Found'st either sweet repast or sound repose;

Such ambush, laid among sweet slowers and stades,

Waited with hellish rancour imminent

To intercept thy way, or lend thee back.

Despoil'd of innocence, of faith, of bliss!

MILTON

HE distress of Miss Evans for her father's supposed illness had given a temporary diversion to lady Monteith's ideas; but they soon recurred to the contemplation of her own forrows. The affecting scene of the preceding evening, by reviving all her former tenderness, gave that importance to her friend's judgment of which it had been for some time deprived; and while she recollected the impressive earnestness and indisputable sincerity with which it was delivered, she deemed it at least entitled to attention; and she determined to scrutinize the principles on which she had sounded her opinion of Fitzosborne.

She first reverted to the high estimation in which his character was held by the world. Every one spoke of him as a most extraordinary man; and his inviolable integrity was confirmed by his behaviour on the discovery of lady Arabella's attachment to him. Nay, strange as it might seem, she often thought that he still cherished her idea in his heart. She knew that he had preserved

her picture, and he had just rejected the propofal of an advantageous alliance with the rich heires of an Islandio chieftain, This constancy though from the discordance of their character scarcely attributable to the caprices of love, proved the folidity of his virtue, and secured herself from even a possibility of being the object of his licentious passion. His speculative notions on some: points were indeed reprehensible; but then they were merely speculations; and she still thought Mr. Evans's notions, which tended to confine opinion, were deficient in liberality, and founded on a tyrannical defire of subjugating the free independent mind. All her own observations tended to convince her, that Henry and Lucy exaggerated his errors. No direct charge was brought against bim, even supposing his companions to have been as profligate as they were described. A twelvemonth's intimacy was some ground whereon to judge of characters; and fle could not help affirming, that the innocence of his conduct was a proof of the inoffensiveness of. his principles.

The change in lord Monteith could not, even by Lucy's own confession, be clearly traced to his influence. The suspicion that he was accessary to his lordship's saults only arose from the probability of his having some secret seducer, and the influence which Fitzosborne seemed to have over him. For her own part she was doubtful of the existence of a seducer, and could not perceive any

certain proof of that supposed influence.

His marked attentions to herself formed the next accusation. But Lucy knew nothing of the manners of the great world, or the freedoms which custom had rendered general. The universal homage, which even appropriated beau-

ty required, and the familiar intercourse to which the centorious did not affix the least shadow of impropriety, would shock ber friend's notions, formed in the depth of retirement, and rather founded on the idea of what was prudent, than on the consideration of what is practicable.

Her thoughts then fell into a train of reflection upon the incidents of her early years, the peace-ful shades of Powerscourt, the joyous hours of playful gaiety, the endearing recollection of tender confidence, and interesting simplicity, all rendered still more exquisite by the vivid glow of youthful hope, which spread a more fascinating splendour round the present scene, by the promise of more brilliant suture enjoyments. Fallacious promise! fallssied prediction! "Is there," said she, casting her eyes from the proud heights of Monteith castle on the subject vale; "is there in all this wide domains wretch more inserable than me."

She started at that recollection. Yes, there are. There exists pining penuty; there desti-

tute fickness suffers, and wasting infancy declines; not only deprived of the affishance

which former experience prompted them to ex-

pect from their lord, but even refuled what jus-

how strongly do such situations demonstrate the

truth of your opinion, that the prefent order of

things requires the bold hand of lome intelli-

Leaving lady Monteith's conclusion to disprove itself, I proceed with my narrative. She walked to the cabinet which stood in her dressing room, and, opening the casket which contained her mother's jewels, she determined to divert them from the service of oftentation and vanity to

she holder purposes of benevolence and integrity. She looked over, without a figh, the various articles of ornament; but her mother's picture, set round with diamonds, excited a strong repugnance. It had been presented to one of her fisters, and restored to the Powerscourt family, on the death of its owner. Lady Monteith attentively contemplated the features. Thou art at rest, said she; would I were so too. Thou didst endure severe bodily suffering; mine are the sharper tortures of the mind. The neglect of an estranged husband never rived thy heart!

She then began a letter to a friend at Edinburgh, whom she wished to employ as an agent in this business. The difficulty of affiguing a motive for this action, and the suspicious secresy that she was forced to require, made her incapable of executing it to her fatisfaction, though she made repeated attempts. It will certainly be discovered, said she. If it should come to my father's knowledge, it might displease, it must distress him. To whom but him should I apply for affishance? Ah! hard necessary! that I alone cannot solicit the bounty of his ever-liberal hand!"

Tear after tear flowed down her cheek, when the found of Fitzelborne's foot upon the stairs roused her from the stupor of grief. 'He shall not seeme in this disorder. Lucy shall not reproach me with having a male confidant.' She hastily snarched up her papers, and retired to her own chamber. Her expedition was too much the effect of agitation to admit of exactness, and she lest behind her a part of a letter which, with her jewels lying upon the table, were sufficient to inform Fitzosborne of the nature of her recent occupation. He immediately inclosed bank-notes for four-

four hundred pounds, which feemed to be the required fum, and addressed to lady Monteith a few respectful lines, in which he entreated her topermit him to enjoy a luxury feldom annexed to humble fortunes, by appropriating what was to him an incumbrance to those noble offices, to which he dorft affirm the had deffined the value of her jewels. He then fealed the note and retired. not be disdainfully refused

Lady Monteith only waited to hear him quit the room to leave her netreat. She read the paper, which was addressed to her, and though she fleadily determined to reject the inclosed present, the felt enraptured at the generofity which proffered the gift, and at the delicacy which so infinuatingly fued for its acceptance. The reader will not partake in her feelings, when informed, that juffice would have ordered the restination of this property to the Monteith family, it being. only a part of a larger fum which had been transmitted to Fitzosborne by a right honourable rook of his acquaintance, as a douceur for the favourof being permitted to have the principal plucking of the finest pigeon that had been for many years

brought to market. Somewhat ton I want vol W. Ignorant of the nature of the faccurfed spoil," the counters remained steady in her resolution of returning it. In vain did Edward attempt to refift her determination. 'My pecuniary difficulties, faid the, are not to diffreshing as to permit me to sequester the slender portion of a

younger brother.'

Recollect, replied Fitzosbonnes that the influence of lord Monteith has permitted me to extend my hopes beyond the narrow fphere of a younger brother's enjoyments, and do notcheck the impulse of graticude. and his bonion. Then

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of then to lord Monteith be the recompense uired fum, and addressed to lady Maskenha

And why not to his charming wife ? I flould admire this lovely pride. did I not suspect that it was united to a degree of fulpicion, unworthy

of your purity and my own honour. Can I no way convince you of my lincere difinterested friendship! Can I make no offers which will

not be disdainfully refused?"

Yes, certainly you may, replied the countels; and I will depute you, instead of my Edinburgh friend, to dispose of these jewels.

Fashion varies so much, and people in the

country drefs fo plain, that I fearcely ever want. fuch ornaments. Befide, lord Monteith was

remarkably liberal on my marriage. They re-

ally are not of the smallest use to me."

in a I willingly undertake the commission,' returned Fitzofborne; but it may be fome time be-

fore I can find a purchaser; and why should this money lie ufeles in my secretary? Are the objects

of your bounty (for I know it is not extrava-

gance, but generofity, which limits your re-lources) to languish to an uncertain period?

Why may I not advance it by way of loan?

Indeed, lady Monteith! you are too ferupu-

I believe, faid she recollecting herself, I am. I will accept your offer. The jewels will, Bam confident, discharge the debt; and

pray nevel expect me to redeem them."

This business being adjusted, a momentary paufe enfued. We exceedingly regret," oblerved Fitzofborne, the loss of our cheerful companion Mifs Evans. I hope the will find her father better." The countels fincerely joined in that with war to shipping and seek

Edward My lord is quite milerable at her go.

Edward My lord is quite milerable at her go.

ing. Heodeclares that he never met with a

woman whose manner to much entertained

him; all vivacity and spirit; and certainly she

was assigned white the color and obliging to his

lordship, young heart to carries and beauty.

She is generally obliging to every one, religioned the countels of Buth think you fometimes experienced rather a fevery bon month of religion

for I don't doubt that my impertinence de ferved it; and it was of no confequence to me, so the kept ford Monteith in good hue mour.

Fitzosborne's remarks were never without meaning; and the most candid tempers, when rouled to suspicion, are ever the most watchful Does he', thought the perplexed Geraldine, mean to infinuate that the was improperly attentive to my lord? She is destitute of vanity, and infinitely superior to every finister defign. If the was more pointed in her civilities, it must have been from her conviction that I failed in paying him due observance; and she frove to supply my deficiency. Alas! even my bosom-friend condemns me. Even my · Lucy will not allow how difficult it is for an ini jured heart to be at once affectionate and fint cere, to disguise the butter feeling which unkindness calls forth, under a forced smile that has loft the power of pleafing to a sale larurads

wished her to draw. He had for some time attempted to revive the slame of jealousy in lady Monteuth's bosom; but it was not in the chaste simplicity of Miss Evans's manner that he hoped to find materials to feed the sire. It was sufficient

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for him, that Geraldine should think her friend conforms and partials apother object haddong fince been fixed upon to effect the confumnation of Fitzofberne's treacherous devices.

Among lord Monteith's tenants was a young woman, the daughtersof aufarmer, highly graced by the charms of natural beauty, and not less distinguished by a levity of manner, and a fashionable arrangement of drefs; extremely diffimilar to the plain attire and fober demeanour of the neighbours in her rank of life. Thefe circumstances, though perhaps only the result of folly and inconfideration, or at the worst unfupicious vanity, the uncommon beauty of the girl forced into attention; and even at the caftle, when better subjects were exhausted, the person, the finery, and the flirtations of Pattie Thompfon formed an occasional theme for conversation. Geraldine had been frequently diverted by her awkward, yet not difgusting imitation of her own diess and manners; and on Fitzosborne's first arrival at Monteith, she pointed her out as a figure very likely to attract general attention if feen in Grosvenor-square or Hyde-park. ward gazed a few moments, gave an exclamation of furprize, and then whilpered her, that she was the exact likeness of Mrs. Harley.

From that moment the countess turned her eyes from the blooming Pattie with an involuntary shudder of horror; and when she invited the rural lasses to a dance in the castle in honour of one of her daughter's birth-days, she was secretly pleased that Farmer Thompson's daughter could not be of the party. Even her visits at the old man's house were less frequent than those which she made to her other neighbours. She selt herself wrong, and she determined to

make a painful effort to be right. She fet out in accordingly, and had nearly reached the dwel in ling, when the faw lord Monteith walking haftin tily towards it by another road. The discovery was of itself sufficiently agitating, but Fitzof to borne, as usual, pointed the dart more directly to her peace of mind by the sudden exclamation of the earl, and, seizing him by the arms with a degree of violent gesticulation, walked back within him to the castle, and hards hards a present yet and made

The vifit of the counters was thort, and her manner was ungracious. She returned home, and, pleading that the walk had overcome her, the continued confined to her chamber the remainder of the day. However poignant her ! feelings, the never disclosed them even to her Lucy, who was then at Monteith. But the had continued to brood over this really accidental circumstance in secret till the time of which I am now treating. If it should here be objected to my narrative, that chance had too confiderable a share in the success of Fitzosborne to give probability to the fimilar defigns of another villain, let inexperience and felf-coufidence remem- il ber, that a determined feducer, admitted to an in equal degree of intimacy, will always find in the domestic events of every family equal opportunities of expediting his views. The most subtile genius cannot preconcert every operation. It is in the directing skill by which incidental in circumstances are made to conduce to one great w defign, that the power of superior ability is most eminently visible. But pandiqueled builtured and an

fully delved, determined on the immediate ex-

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impending and when he confidered the magnitude and the intricacy of his plots, he felt altonished at his own good fortune in having fo long
escaped detection. Do trisle with danger was
now folly and anisting vitness that the interior

My readers have doubtless aferibed to him the letter which hurried Mils Evans to Caernarvonthire, as they will easily conceive that her prefence was an insuperable obstacle to the completion of his iniquity. I must now inform them, that by repeated bribes he had feduced the fidelity of lord Monteith's butler, and the groom who generally accompanied him on horseback. They regularly gave him information of every event that happened in the family. His appearance in the library, and the opening of the banqueting-room door on the night lady Monteith went down flairs to speak to the fleward, were not accidental. The watchfulness of Miss Evans cheeked the audacious hopes which he had that evening dared to form from the extreme diffress which refentment had enkindled in lady Monteith's mind against the degrading conduct of her lord. But Mifs Evans was now far diftant; the faithful conscientious steward had set our for Edinburgh to transact fome money affairs; and lord Monteith was wholly engrofied by the shooting season, which had just comnumities of extedions his views. The molt. beans

The third morning after Miss Evans's departure, my lord was absent at breakfast; but that was not uncommon. Fitzosborne read some of Wieland's works to the counters, commented on the beautiful descriptions, and then proposed a walk. They went through the plantations to the lake. On the road she enlarged, with affecting simplicity, on the pleasure which she

inipendane 3

once enjoyed in adding a finishing grace to the I richnels of that friking scenerys and attear foles down her cheek, as the pointed out parts which her lord had used to commender Fitzofborne's replies were calculated to confirm her apprehenfion that the must now turn her mind to different objects; for that the pleasures of connubial esteem and confidence were lost for ever. On their way home they passed near Farmer Thompfon's. Fitzofborne proposed calling but the countels, pleading wearinels, declined going out of her way, and refted upon a ftile, while Edward went, as he faid, to please himself with the fight of a pretty girl. He returned thoughtful and disconcerted, and observed gravely that the be composed. I will foon besond to ton eaw

Dinner was served soon after their return, but no one could find lord Monteith. This is we ry extraordinary, said the countess. He used to be remarkably punctual or Who went with him? At reduciting your in boundon.

caroline was the a gentleman, wrapped in a riding vilger

Geraldine felt alarmed: Sure no accident has happened. Call my lord's groom. He was questioned respecting the safety of his borse, and the countess was now informed that he was not gone out upon any of his own horses, notice

Search the woods simmediately a Some dreadful event mult have detained him. He never would go far from home on foot, and unattended. Had he a gun with him? The groom now owned in some confusion, that his master had set off early that morning in a hited chaise and four.

The servants were divided in their opinions.

The greater part faids he went towards the moors, but the butler and the groom declared that they faw the chaife men round by the fodges in the park, asbifait was going to Farmer Thompson's, and then, after having thopped for a moment, proceeded towards Edinburgh, nois

Geraldine new crembled with undefined diftrels. Did you, a fald offe to Fitzolborne,

en way home they armio sintile guirhon word

He ordered the tervants to retire, and then faid, He confides none of thefe fecrets to me. Lonly know that his affairs are desperate; but before I mention my further suspicions, allow me to ascertain their validity. I will just run to Farmer Thompson's, For heaven's take! be composed. I will foon be back. Shall I Island your children to you bove of war small

Not no! flyl fly! was all the could arry extraordinary, faid the counters stabilist

ble foon returned, and the tale he told corroborated in every particular the butler's accounted Partie Thompson was Ren in a chaife with a gentleman, wrapped in a riding-coat, atrix obclock that morning. 10 The counters fainted moong a brol ym llaD has happened.

The riger who sports with the victim that he holds in his fangs, is not suspected to feel compation; nor did the tender epithets which Bitzofborne addressed to the object of his more lavage cracky indicate a relenting heart. He wished indeed, to recal her fenses; but it wis only that the might feel the torments of guilt added to thole of mifery.

No sooner did he perceive returning life faintly flush upon her cheek, and her fcarcelyopened eyes fixed upon him with a look at once expressive of confidence and despair, than he de-VOL. II. termined termined to confirm that despair, and to abuse bella. She will be fevere, arsonsbiknowishtel

Where shall I go ? What shall I do ? in-- quired the distressed Geraldinest are no X

I know not what to advise. You cannot

flay at Monteith The creditors will certainly

scheartof the earl's departure vorsel may vd

Cannot flay belowhyg? instragird nwo ym

An execution will be immediately ferved."

one O my helplefs, houseles babes! where the hyle, of lacy Arabellander then I flath to

Surely your properest alylum will be with vour father.'

'True. O let me fly to Powerscourt.'

' Yet consider his years and infirmities. Will

there not be some danger in pouring upon him, while unprepared, the whole weight of

s your calamities; of afflicing him with your

distress before you have learnt fortitude to s endure it. Cannot you be for a little time at

the Evans's?

My Lucy is already buking with her own

forrow, Ought I to increase it?

Permit me then, ever loved and respected lady Monteith, to propose another asylum. I

have a ofter, a woman of the most unblemish-

ed character, who will esteem it an honour to

protect you. Allow me to conduct you and vour children to her. She lives in Lanca-

fhire.'

DINOW !

No! Fitzosborne. I must not take refuge

with your friends.'

I can name no other fanctuary, unless it be lady Arabella Macdonald's house. And furely

calumny itself must approve of your taking Tefuge there? The ans barrapai Trantel can-

1

and I cannot apply for protection to lady Arabella. She will be fevere, and make me feel

the pang of dependance I list and we

'You are then unacquainted with the influsence which I have happily regained over her fentiments of But I recollect, that, engroffed

by your forrows I have omitted to announce

my own brightening prospects it some ?

He then drew from his pocket a letter which frongly resembled the writing, and still more the ftyle, of lady Arabella. It was addressed to the Honourable Edward Fitzosborne.

STEERS WO TO HO TO HOW ESTED THE

I really do feel fo excessively disconcerted, that I hardly know in what style to begin. For one hates to own onefelf wrong, and yet I think I ought to tell you that I have been un-

der some little mistake : and not chusing to

be upon bad terms with a gentleman fo vastly well spoken of, and received, every where, I

just add, that I shall be very glad to see you at

my parties when you come to London. I hope this concession will fatisfy lord Monteith, to whom and his sweet Geraldine I beg

my tender regards, and remain, fir, with fincere efteem,

of garagolf, som Gate Some I at S Your very obedient fervant,

ARABELLA MACDONALD.

Shall I then throw myself at her seet? and ask her to protect me and my children; to fave us from want; to fosten the pangs of perfidy at leaft, till I can gently prepare my father?' inquired the afflicted Geraldine.

> H 2 · I would

illo I would advice, that you thould not only do fo, but that you should fet off immediately. A wehought has juft thrack me. You may overmake lord Montelihim He has certainly taken

contempt. I vanhod of har salm.

What? with that unfortunate girl? O, · Fitzosborne! a wife is bound by indiffoluble

ties, and must fuffer with him ; but how could

he be to cruel, to felfilh, to involve a ftranger in his calamities ? She was innocent, happy.

· bleffed with humble competence.

Your candour has misled you. I have certain proof that a criminal connection has sub-

fifted some time between them. She proba-

bly proposes to accompany ford Monteith oment's delay in . borde

Abroad! Is he going abroad? What! ab-· folutely defert me and my little ones without

one preparatory word? Leave me too in all

there complicated circumstances of grief and

distress? Oh! hold my brain, or let me · lofe relection in inflant madnets. Unparal-

· lelled! anpardonable chiefty ! farretai

It is indeed unpardonable. Monteith, the

execrable Monteith, is unworthy of you.

May the anguish which I suffer, Fitzofborne, warn you of the danger of a precipitate choice!

· Let not your eye millead your judgment, nor

your fancy cheat you with the femblance of

rins, and your deep. sanstiv griffixs front

My heart, most charming moralist, is for ever fixed where my juligment has discovered

the most unquestionable excellence. Yet do

not droop beneath your forrow. The tyrant · laws of custom will not for ever bind you to

the mean despicable seducer of a simple rustic,

-iflored gailerid is to appropriate of a presidential of the state of immediate out of the state of immediate of the state of immediate of the state of the state

True. But my children Ol for their fakes what would I not submit to? I would still endure his contempt. I would kneel, and humbly supplicate to be the partner in all their father's fortunes. Od at all was a mondo.

Fitzosborne paused in No injuries, I see can compel her to a willing clopement. It is well; I have a resource will know that I possess her affections; and women always pardon where they love.

half-frantic Geraldine, "let me instantly order your carriage, that you may set off in pursuit of him. Every moment's delay increases the difficulty of overtaking him.'

True. I will be gone. You are my better angel, Fitzosborne. Order my carriage, while. I fetch my little ones. They shall kneel with me to their faithless farher.

borne, infernal triumph sparkling in his eyes, how distress affects your strong intellects ! At this late hour, their season of rest, would you expose their delicate frames to the danger of a rapid pursuit? Consider, that all your hopes of overtaking lord Monteith depend upon your speed. If you are successful, your own charms, and your deep distress, must possess sufficient eloquence; and if you are so unfortunate as to miss him, will it be acting with proper decorum to lady Arabella to obtrude your family upon her without previous preparation?

Am I then to leave them here, the sport of merciles creditors?

Rest affored, madam, that however barbar-ous our laws may be, in that particular, the

execution of them is happily conducted with

- · urbanity, at least to people of your rank. But, to foften my apprehension on their account,
- · I will take care to efcort them wherever you
- please to order, when you are placed in ho-norable protection. Their nurses are very
- careful of them; they are too young to know
- · forrow by anticipation; and any tale will account for your abfence.

Is the carriage ready? where is Maria?"

She and my fervant are packing up a few necessary changes of linen. They can follow

us in another chaife. bollatinos

"Us, Fitzosborne? You do not mean to go with me?

On that head I must be firm. Humanity

will not fuffer me to let you undertake fuch a

fourney by yourself in circumstances of such peculiar distress. Beside, if you should over-

take Monteith upon the road, who knows but

that his violence, aggravated by detected guilt,

may make you want a protector?

What bloody scenes are you revolving? Loft, unhappy Geraldine Better perifh here

than want a protector against thy husband."

He has abjured the feelings annexed to that title. Though I renounce the name of his

friend, and cancel all ties of gratitude, yet for

vour fake you shall fee me calm and dispassio-

nate, nay even patient of infult. But you forget how we waste these precious moments.

Ah, true.' She stept towards the door; and then, fuddenly stopping, exclaimed, Where are my children? I must see them once more? umfelt into the chariot, the hories let off

bluowed on the Edinburgh road.

CHAP.

"Would you wake them from their fleep?"
cried Fitzosborne, who dreaded the event of, such an interview. "Would you fill their inngcent minds with sorrow at sceing your distress?"

Sleep on, my innocent, peaceful children; and never may ye know what your mother fuffers! She then turned her eyes upon Fitzofborne. The expression in his countenance, excited a momentary alarm. She withdrew her hand from his impassioned grasp, and sear-fully uttered: Something still whispers me, that I ought not to go: at least, not with you.

'Whence this cruel distruct of your adopted.
'brother, the contracted husband of your Ara-

bella?' returned the re-collected dissembler.
Dear lady Monteith! Will these starts of too susceptible delicacy never cease, even if you

floud fee that engagement fulfilled i'm

Then remember,' replied the, in an impressive voice, I that, my distraction enterbles, my judgment. My brain seems, on fire, MI the steep you advise should widen the breach between me and my lord, on you be all the blame.

this terrible imprecation as he led his victim to the chariot. He stopped a moment, under pretence of giving his valet instructions for their route, while Geraldine, clasping her trembling hands exclaimed, 'Adieu, Monteith! perhaps eternally adieu!' The servants crowded into the corridor with looks of consternation and distress. Fitzosborne called aloud, that the other earriage should follow as soon as possible, and join them at the next post-town. Then throwing himself into the chariot, the horses set off full speed on the Edinburgh road.

hors

Your master, Mr. Pomade, does not do many things which other people think they ought to do. He never goes to church, nor fays his prayers, and yet he pretends to be very good. You if he can be good without going to church, or faying his prayers, he may live without eating for what I know he will be with all which he will be built all he will be built built he will be built built

Breathlefethe good munfell. a visual vrov

before he came.

MARIA stood in the great hall ready to attend her lady, her eyes swelled with tears, and her heart throbbing with forrow at the lidea of her beloved mistress's distress, when she was joined by the old housekeeper, or miles a to mend

Pray, Mrs. Maria, faid the good woman, can you tell me what is the matter with her ladyship? It is so odd to set out for London at eight o'clock at night, and so late in September too. Thank God! there is a very good moon to be sure, and the roads are very fase, and I wish you all well there with all my heart. But poor soul must be faint, for she has not ate one mouthful of dinner, though I sent up two courses as nicely dished as ever I did in my life. She has had nothing within her lips, the sootmen say, but one glass of some fort of cordial which Mrs. Fitzosborne mixed up and gave her! no is gost of each of the sweet of the same say.

observed Fitzosborne's servant, who now joined them. and mail small small and days out

Your master, Mr. Pomade, does not do many things which other people think they ought to do. He never goes to church, nor fays his prayers; and yet he pretends to be

very good. So, if he can be good without going to church, or faying his prayers, he

' may live without eating for what I know.'
'You are rather severe, Mrs. Annifeed.'
'My master, madam, I must inform you, is one of the most generous, free, good-tem'pered gentlemen in the world.'

Very likely; I only know that my lord and lady were as happy as kings and queens before he came.'

L wish, faid the weeping Maria, that our chaise was ready. there and hoof AIRA

Go, Sandy, faid Pomade to one of the grooms, do just have the goodness for once to be expeditious; and if you will do me the honour of a call in town, a boute of burgundy is at your fervice; but, a propos, my dear Miss Maria; supposed have the happiness of highs drinking one glass of wine with you before we set out on our immense long expeditions?

we are to stop at on the road? has que begins

Mover minds With God's bleffing, we shall find her as well without him as with him.

Lare fay. Ah Maria! Maria! there is not H 3

ogobdi abroad / Ib fear b Heaven preferve her on foor.

ladyship is all I fav.'

One of the stable-boys now entered to fay, that, as my lord's groom was putting the horfes into the travelling postchaife, one of them had turned reflive, and had kicked the shafts all to embrace my good friend the butler's processing

Then harnels out my lord's, exclaimed as plenty of excellent champagne; and airaM

That's impossible; for the coachman is gone with it to Stirling to be mended.

"Then I will have the coach."

What? fend the new coach twelve miles

in the night? No! Master Sandy dare not

do that, I know Why, the coachman would

have us both turned off directly. '19 first a and

Then pray, William, let me have the but I could tell were what he is. curriele.

No, faid the housekeeper; I won't have my bones broke in the curricle; but I can

ride double very well. Have the two faddle

horses got ready directly.' and that bread adl

A shout of ridicule was now raised against the housekeeper by Mr. Pomade, who came to condole with Maria upon his misfortune in not having the pleasure of travelling with her that evening. We must defer our expedition,

my dear,' faid he, 'till morning's early ray; and I protest, but for the loss of your charm-

ing company, I should be glad; for I find the

thick mountain fog very pernicious vito my;

· lungs, which fuffered extremely in croffing

the Alps when I came out of Italy. Mr.

Fitzosborne has too much friendship for me to

be displeased at my not exposing myself to

the night air. we proton a magi maora such

Liwil 1 mongh of wicked selection

You will be very likely to be fure to overtake her, who has fet out an hour before you
in a chariot and four. No loome, as it is
outerly impossible for lust to proceed, let us
embrace my good friend the butler's proposal,
and have a dittle festivate He has promised
us plenty of excellent champagne; and I request Mils Maria's stand for the ball. Nay!
my dear creature, why do you cry so? Lady
Monteith will be vastly well taken care of, I
dare say. 'Pon my soul! I shall begin to be
scandalous, if you take on so, and say, that
though her ladyship looks like an angel, she
is a devil of a termagant.

I don't know what your mafter looks like; but I could tell you what he is, if I chose it,' faid the house-keeper: but it is not my way to be uncivil to any body." Her moderation, however, continued no longer than till the heard that the riding-horses were all toose in the Park, and that the groom had fatigued himself to no purpose in endeavouring to carely them! She now poured upon Fitzofborne a thousand execrations; and, without paying the least attention to the excutes, which strove to perfuade her that thefe misfortunes were merely the effect of chance, her passion and Maria's tears became for troublefome, that the butter, to pacify them, promifed to walk to the next post-towns and to order a hired chaife immethe Alps when I came out of Italy visitib

Her did walk, but it was only to the watch tower, where he, Mr. Pomade, and the perfedious groom, fpent a riotous evening, exulting in the triumph of wickedness, and anticipating

their

their spromited rewards white the refle of the family exhibited a rees of white exhibited a receive of the receive of

The morning role, but not to bring consolation. The obstacles to Maria's following her lady multiplied every hour. Indeed, that faithful girl was now incapable of taking the journey. She had been in strong hysteries most part of the night; and the venerable housekeeper, though she alternately blamed, pitied, and commended her affectionate sellow-servant, had now so exhausted her own seeble strength, that she was unequal to any further exertion.

About two o'clock a carriage drove into the castle-yard, and was welcomed by the universal thout of, 'Thank God! it is either my ford or 'my lady.' It was neither. Henry Powerscourt arrived, but unhappily one day too late to save the honour, and ultimately the life of Geraldine.

inquiry. Gone. Whither? No one knew, With whom?" Mr. Eitzofborne.

Henry recled against the portal, chapped his hand to his forehead, and was speechless.

The fervants crowded round him. A burst of tears relieved his manly forrow. He then inquired, Where is my lord?— Cone too. — What, in pursuit of the counters?—No! they believed her ladyship was gone after him.

This is villany of a deeper cast, resumed Henry. She is the victim of trand, not of persuation.

The housekeeper was by this time got into the hall, eager to ask his opinion, or to receive his instructions. And the pale trembling Maria, hearing that Mr. Powerscourt knew what

feeble frame to hear the defined tisings vising the defined tisings vising the defined tisings vising the defined tisings vising the solo defended by good fir, faid the housekeeper. The you had but come a little histories, it would not have been for Henry now inquired the particulars, which were recounted as intelligibly as twenty different voices—could detail them. In one point they all agreed, that their lady seemed in the greatest distress.

Ah, betrayed isnocent!" exclaimed Henry.

And is my lord's journey a fecret too?"

A most profound one, sir, faid the butler.

He went, you say, in a hired chaise and

· Iour, at fix o'clock yesterday morning, the

road toward the Moors?"

how I don fin.' replied the groom.

sist 50 Nay now, Sandy, faid one of the footmen,

that is little better than a lie; I faid fo, and

you told my lady, when the feemed to fright-

by the lodges in the park, and then stop, and

go back again toward Edinburgh,"

faid the groom, addreshing the butler.

Mr. Why, my eyes might deceive me, but Mr.

Pomade thought the fame.

on SaWho is Mr. Pomade?

Mr. Fitzofborne's fervant.

light on this inexplicable business.

beautifile went off to London at four o'clock this

10 4 morning, answered the groom.

" How?"- On horseback."

Another lie, exclaimed the housekeeper.

ov. 5.0, there are some wicked doings, and it will
guidall come out. The very stones in the street

v. 5 will speak when there has been a murder.

His

His master has got notherses, and you told us that you could not catch any of my lord'sperifie we would give you a thousand pounds? of I

Do I, faid Powerscourt, see around me fo many stout healthy men, fed by lord Mon-

teith's bounty; and would none of them walk

to to to order a chaife, that this young

Plime fish ubsinaginosset sych erdgimh nemow ? ment of buman laws. He now panies alart?

A general murmur announced that they would all have willingly walked to Johnny Groat's house to serve their lord or their lady, but the butler had undertaken that office.

And why did he not perform it then?' faid Powerscourt. I stopped at that town myfelf two hours ago, and I am consident, not

only that there are chaifes to be procured,

but also that no messenger from Monteith had been to order one.

The butler attempted an excuse; but the groom, falling upon his knees, faid, he would confess all. Mr. Fitzosborne had long defigned to run away with his lady when he had an opportunity. His lordship received a note on the evening before her departure, after his lady was gone to bed, giving him an invitation to go to fhoot some moor-game on the neighbouring mountains with fome gentlemen of his acquaintance; and, proposing to set off soon in the morning, he left a note for his lady, telling her where he was gone. He confessed too, that he had told Mr. Fitzosborne this, and also that he was gone in a hired chaife on account of the bad roads, and without any attendants, for gentlemen did not like to have any more with them on the mountains than were abfolutely necessary. That Fitzosborne then took the: AHOTEL !

the note from him, and bade him fays if he was questioned, lothat: be went fround by Farmer Thompson's, hand then turned; toward Edinburghouses around for Powerfourt.

Henry ordered both the groom and the butler into custody, without considering that the blackest crimes will sometimes evade the punishment of human laws. He now paused a moment to consider how he should act, when the head nurse thus interrupted his musings:

Won't you see the pretty little dears, fir?

Alas-a-day! what is to become of them?
They have been asking for their mamma all

the morning. Lady Bell and lady Lucy have

fat and learned the lessons she gave them

e yesterday, like two angels; and they say that

they know the will call them good girls, and

kiss them, when she comes and that dear

beautiful little creature Geraldine has made

up a nolegay for mam-mam. She can hardly

talk, you know. Dear sweet fouls! to have

their mother taken from them. So young

tood Don good fir, just go and fee them.

My little lord is vally grown, even fince you

Henry suffered himself to be led to the nurfery. The scene overpowered his fortitude.

On cousin Harry !! echoed the two elder, we are so glad you are come again. Do,

continued Arabella, 'tell mamma we are ready with our books Is not she well, that she

has not been to fee us this morning? nurse

does cry fo, and the won't tell us why.'

Were all thy drops of blood lives, Fitz-

mand the forfeiture of all. Villain! mon-

ftrous;

Arous infernal villam P to facrifice to fenfual as being belt fuited for the ball strength of the strength of

My dear fittle ladies? cried the nurle to the terrified children, a manghey Mr. Piezola borne has took your mamma away; but if you will be very good, and not cry, this good gentleman will fetch her back again, and bec

Yes, indeed, I will be very good, faid the fobbing lady Arabella, and not cry, if I can help it. Pray, Lucy, don't hold coulin Harry's coat; confider you will hinder him;

and when you find mamma, coulin, tell her

fhe shall not see us cry when the comes home

e again.

Henry caught the children alternately in his fortune, he commended their deferted innocence to the common Parent of the orphan and the diffressed. He at length tore himself from

the affecting scene.

He now debated which way to Mape his course whether to fet off in pursuit of the countels, or to communicate the intelligence of her absence to lord Monteith, and to consult with him what measures should be adopted. Every circumstance proved that she had been rather entrapped than seduced. A hope struck him, that his refcue might come in time to live her from different, and he fet out rapidly in He had, however, the latistacted to darks

He flopped at all the post inns on the route: to Edinburgh; but his minute inquiries obtains ed no latisfaction. In that city he renewed his. ferutiny; and when his failing hopes had almost deferred him, he obtained what he thought a guiding clue. It proved evalive. Still, howexercisconvinced in his own mind, that London would be the place of Fitzofborne's deftination, as being best suited for the purposes of concealment, he continued to travel towards the fouth, till he accidently faw a tenant of fir Willam Powerscourt's at an inn door, where he was changing horses, Anxiety for his Lucy induced him to inquire after her welfare. The hencel ruftic mournfully thook his head. Ah! "fir, faid he, fall is well at the parlonage; but very bad news at the manor-house. Our good old mafter has heard that the lady countels his daughter ran away with a fine London. 'fquire; and it has thrown the gout into his flomach, and they doubt he won't get over it. There's not a dry eye within ten miles of him by this time. I told all the folks I met as I came along, and they all began to pray for him, and to drink to his getting well. And they do fo curse my lady counters. For my part, fir, I can't curse her; for I don't think it true; do you? She was the prettieft, decentest young lady I ever law in my life, when the was with us; but they do fay this London fquire was an eternal great rogue.

Henry listed up his eyes to heaven, as if requiring the tardy lightning to blast Fitzosborne's complicated guilt. He now turned his course westward, and arrived at Powerscourt late the ensuing day, worn down by fatigue and anxiety. He had, however, the satisfaction to hear, that fir William was still alive, and he learnt the following particulars from Mr. Evens.

The news of lady Monteith's clopement had travelled to Powerscourt with inconceivable celerity. A dependent of the earl's, more grateful than judicious in his jutentions, had perfuaded

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perfuaded himfelf, that a mighty noise was made about nothing at all; for that the lady was only gone to flay a little with her father. as his wife would fometimes do, when he had a word or two with her. He determined therefore to ride post to Caernarvonshire, not doubting that he should bring news back of her being fafe and well. His uncouth manner, and confufed extravagant account rather amused than alarmed the fervants, and it was accidentally communicated to fir William. Nothing respecting his darling child was uninteresting to him. He ordered the "bonnie Scot" into his presence; and though he gave little credence to the improbable narrative, he heard with concern, that lord Monteith's affairs were in a bad state, and that he and his lady were thought not to be quite to happy as they were. To first a site a

Sir William passed a restless miserable night, and the next morning appeared seriously ill. He rose, however, with the determination of going himself into Scotland, when an express arrived from lord Monteith, which proclaimed his own disgrace in terms of the most rash severity; and hastened the criss of ir William's disorder. He was immediately seized with spasms in his stomach, and, though somewhat relieved by medical aid, he still remained speechless, and in

a very alarming state. The state of the stat

when I had finished; looked at the portrait of his daughter, which hung at his bed's feet, then on me; and lastly raised his eyes to Heaven. I understood that he commended her to me. The ligature, as Sterne observes, fine as it is, shall never be broken. When the world forfakes her, I will receive and cherish the mourner. She may be frail and criminal; she cannot be wholly abandoned."

Lucy now, having heard of Henry's return, rushed into the room with inquiries respecting her friend. She listened with breathless eagerness to the narrative which he related. Tis as I said, exclaimed she, elasping her hands:

I knew that her pure elevated mind could never yield consent to an adulterous elopement. O Henry! do follow her to London —the traitor has certainly concealed her there;—rescue her from him;—fear not his opposition—guilt like his must be cowardly:

— perhaps even yet you may save our Geraldine.

Let us fludy moderation in every thing, replied Mr. Evans in his usual dignified manner; whether we grieve for the respectable e friend who feems leaving us for a happier world, or feek to affift the dear lady who appeared to be worthy of a better fate. Let us ever remember, that excess offends. Do not you fee, my dear child, that Mr. Powerscourt is exhausted by diffres, and the fatigue of feven days incessant travelling. We have no clue to direct us where to find the loft countefs: Instead, therefore, of wearing out his Atrength in impatient romantic wandering, let him referve it, till fome certain intelligence calls us forth to action; and if I can ferve & the the child of my benefactor, neither my ige nor my function shall be pleaded in my excuse. In the mean time we will conside ourselves with the conviction, that Eitzosborne cannot secrete her from the superintendance of Omnipotence; and we will conside her to the care of that Providence which never deserts those who, sensible of their own weakness and the perils by which they are surrounded sanctify the measures which human prudence suggests by a depending upon him who is able to save in The weeping Lucy acquiesced in the piety and the wisdom of this resection.

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Affairs continued in this state at Powerscourt will the following evening. Sir William grew perceptibly weaker, and Henry in vain endeavoured to inspire. Miss Evans with the hopes which he had himself abandoned. Every sound and every soutstep seemed to her charged with tidings from her friend. About nine in the evening a note arrived, which I shall transcribe.

ty perfuaded her to change that resolution. Spend the time of usen Avata cast More with your

Let not Miss Evans start at the writing of her once-heloved Geraldine. The lost miserable wretch presumes not to claim the friend-ship which was the delight of her happier days. I only ask compassion. Tell me, is my father yet alive? If he is, exert that resistless eloquence which convinces every heart, and move him to bestow his parental blessing on his undone child. And for this act of morey, the last I will ever solicit, my dying lipse bout I dare not pray—I did not ask the protecting care of Heaven.—I did not listen to your counsels.—I was self-willed, boastful.—Ah! what am I now

now I have no home, no name, no one to recognife or to protect me. Lord Monteith the but I deserve his accusations. Yet if I am the shameless being he calls me I know not what I say O that eternal mercy would save me from the pangs of murdering my father?"

I spare all comment upon the feelings of Miss. Evans at receiving this incoherent epistle. Indeed it would be impossible to say, whether grief or joy, rage or pity predominated. The messenger stated, that the lady who sent him was at an inn a few miles distant. The landlady told him it was a great pity that none of her friends came to her, for that she was quite alone, very ill,

and fearcely in her right mind.

Not an instant was lost in expediting the desired consolation. The carriage was prepared, and the servants mounted, each contending, with all their national impetuosity and humanity, who should be the first to setch back the respected sugitive. Lucy had determined to go, but Henry persuaded her to change that resolution. Spend the time of my absence, said he, with your your father, and consult his dispassionate judgments whether it will be prudent to apprize fir William that we have heard of her. Try too, my love, to prepare your fortitude for the most excruciating trial is ever sustained. The dear unfortunate requires more than the tear of sympathic possible town.

Restore her equively to me, cried Miss E. vans. El will match her night and day. She shall be allowy care. It is

upon her ability to bear the journey, replied Hemy 100 may at nothing to bear the journey, replied

Told was felf-willed, boatful -Ah! what am I on the

Let the susceptible reader, who has attended to the delineation of lady Monteith's character through the preceding pages, conceive the situation of her mind at the time that her cousin joined her at the obscure inn which afforded her a temporary asylum. Let them recollect her keen abhorrence of disgrace, her eager pursuit of same, her acute semibility as a daughter, a wife, and a mother. Let them contrast the exquisite refinement of her ideas with her present calamities, and release me from the vain attempt of describ-

ing her mental fufferings.

She lay upon a couch; her eyes fixed and rayless; her listless arms hanging motionless; her face deadly pale, and half concealed by her redundant neglected hair. The attendant, who was sitting by her, announced a gentleman who wished to speak with her. Instantly the stupefaction in her countenance changed to extreme terror. She grasped the girl's hand, and entreated her to save her, while her eyes rolled with frightful wildness. The terrified maid added, that his name was Powerscourt; but that he should not come in unless she pleased. The countess relaxed her convulsive grasp, and sunk fainting upon the couch.

Henry, who at that moment entered, contemplated, in mournful anguish, the change so suddenly wrought in the loveliest of semale forms. While the remembrance of his youthful attachment gave a livelier impulse to his susceptibility, he rejoiced in the firm integrity which had preserved him from the infinuating enticements of an illicit passion, and clasping his hands in an ecstaly of piety, gratitude, and regret, he exclaimed,

'Thank God! I have not this to answer.'

Geraldine

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Geraldine miliuterpret d'his emotion. am a murderer then?—A parricide?—He is dead.

No! he is still alive, faid Henry, in a faul-

tering tone.

And has he, exclaimed the with impaffioned frenzy, elent me any token of forgiveness?

I am come, continued Henry, wetting with his tears the feverish hand which she held towards him, to conduct you home.

Bleffed, angelic, peaceful found !- My home ! --- I never thought to have a home again .-- O

raise me up, let us go this instant.'

Are you equal to the journey?" Yes. I can go home. O Heavenly found! -My father's house! And have I indeed yet a

father?

Unable to judge of her real strength during this paroxylin of joy, Mr. Powerscourt proposed waiting till the horses were refreshed. The uniform humanity of Geraldine shone through her diforder. ' My heart is furely grown hard with my misfortunes. Are they my father's old horses that used to take me out when I was a girl? I talk foolishly, Henry. I did know it was you.—I thought you was lord Monteith come back again or I thought you I know not whom-I was fo terrified."

Have you feen lord Monteith?'
Tes. Don't blame me :—I hope for the last time. He used such horrid expressions. He would not allow me to speak to him. He will

never let me fee my children more.-Not once

more, Henry.—I only asked for once, before I die. Is not this too hard even to such a wicked

wretch as I am?"

Henry continued to bathe her hand with tears.

They afforded some relief to his full-fraught heart.

Shall I ever,' refumed the plaintive mourner, fee your Lucy?—You don't answer. Will the speak to me? Don't let her see me if she will not speak to me. Yet how should I re-

She waits your arrival at Powerscourt, there to join with all your friends in the pious talk of

foothing your afflictions. squiffeld diw there

I pass over the remainder of this distressing conversation. No persuasions could prevent lady Monteith from setting off that night for what she termed her haven of rest. She bore her journey better than Mr. Powerscourt expected; and he perceived with pleasure that the wanderings of her conversation were more the effect of weariness, sorrow, and indisposition, than of deranged intellects. She seemed to struggle for fortitude, but her efforts sailed her, when the carriage stopped. 'The prodigal returns,' said she, 'but where is the welcoming father?"

Henry now inquired after fir William, and heard that he continued in the same state. Mr. Powerscourt supported, or rather carried, Geraldine into the breakfast parlour; but no previous resolution could restrain Miss Evans's transport on seeing her. 'My more than sister!—dearer than friend! my love!—My Geraldine! Open those sweet eyes—speak to thy faithful Lucy.

"Come, broken lily, rest upon my bosom.—

Ever dear! ever lovely!—Dearer than in thy hours of happiness!—Give me, but sign that

'thou dost hear me. Only press my hand if thou can'st not speak.' The languid countess feebly returned her friend's ardent pressure, and dropped

while Henry, gazing on his defined parmer with looks of affectionate admiration, gently blamed the overflowing tendernois which charmed him to the foul.

Geraldine gradually revived. And this,' faid the, is my father's house? And thou are Lucy?—And I hear no reproaches—no birterly-remembered warnings.—O kind friends!

Offill kinder Providence, thus to follow guilt with bleffings!—But when thall I feemy

It had been previously determined that this awful interview should be delayed util the next
morning; and Geraldine at last reluctantly confented to try to obtain some repose. Me it has been,
faid the state thringer to meule all know not how
sold boy, to foods and state and not how to boy.

Her delirium seemed to return upon going into her apartment. Be fure, faid the, you bar the doors and windows, and let somebody

hooped. In product reismbaragor quille

Early the next morning fir William altered for confiderably as to indicate immediate difficultion. His daughter had just dropped into a broken flumber: "Mr. levans lamented the necessity of awakening her, but observed, that as her father was thir fenfible, his forgiveners would be a lateing combinion. asPrepared by the counters of this truly Christian pattor, Geraldine supported lieffelf through the trying fcene with meeknefs, piety and formende! Kneeling by his bed-fide, the felt the pressure of his convulled hand upon her head, received from his quivering lips the kifs of reconciliation and peace, and watched the last struggle of his parting foul, as it winged its flight to join in Meaven those benevolent spirits Vor. Il. whom

fALE OF THE TIMES. whom it had imitated on earth. Universal dejection accompanied the news of his death, and the tears of a grateful neighbourhood spoke his herfelt in fortune, personal muigolus spoviupanu advantages, what 'aspite if aught" had inter-

vened to prevent the Hymeneal bond from informe the happiness of this matcheds pair. The latent spark of vanity, lurking in her bosom, was undeferred and no one could calculate how long at would be before the careless Momenth would drop the character of a lover. No one stied,

where is the firm adarent Henry with tention nels, which food of golde and direct this attractions

woman through the thorny maye of problecke One falle flep for ever damns her fame : In vain with tears the may her lofs deplore pused ans In vain look back to what the was before; itseed to She fets, like flars that fall, to tile again no more. exawor ine feene of festivity with which infhered .

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in this marrative; and the fur of I erathing I HE observation of Solon, repeated by the celebrated Croefus at the most interesting period of his life, that we never should pronounce a man happy until we have feen his end, was firkingly verified in my heroine's history. Her morn of existence rose with peculiar splendour; and even the contemplative philosopher, who is accustomed to look beyond the furface, and to balance hope with experience, when he confidered the rare advantages of judicious education, amiable temper, discreet habits, ample wealths and exemplary connections, united in othe perford of the lovely Geraldine, must have concluded that no common viciffitude of fortune could demonth this goodly fabric. ber odw she strivel alde

The commencement of her married life was, in the opinion of the generality of observers, any llaups to her father. The prouse could knot be

A TALE OF THE TIME

ion it had imitated on earth. equally auspicious. United to the man of her heart, her superior in rank, and corresponding to herfelf in fortune, personal grace, and natural advantages, what 'a pity if aught" had intervened to prevent the Hymeneal bond from infuring the happiness of 'this matchless pair.' The latent spark of vanity, lurking in her bosom, was undescried; and no one could calculate how long it would be before the careless Monteith would drop the character of a lover. No one asked, where is the firm judgment, the manly tendernels, which should guide and direct this attracting woman through the thorny maze of public life? Every admirer of equipage, vivacity, splendour, and beauty, pronounced the perpetual happiness of the earl and his bride fland of shad Mool

Five years had elapfed fince Powerfcourt-house exhibited the scene of festivity with which Iushered in this narrative; and the fun of Geraldine's peace is let for ever. The shallows lengthening, as the bright luminary descends, point at last to the tomb. The death of a revered father, full of age and honour, is not of itself an event to cast a fable hue over the scarcely that are life of a dutiful affectionate daughter; but the circumstances attending fir William Powerscourt's demise were fuch as lady Monteith could never overcome. She felt convinced that the had shortened his exiftence; and though his parting spirit, uniformly benignant, bleffed and forgave his involuntary murderer, a thousand fatal indifferetions role to her remembrance, and, feen through the medium of their effects, they no longer appeared pardonable levities. She who had aspired to give delight and comfort to all around her, had brought difgrace on her hufband, infamy on her children and death to her father. The pious confolation's

of Mr. Example wisted the horrows of her full delipairs but mining grief confirmed the ravages which farigue and terror had made in her delicate frame. Each riving morning feemed to amounce fome failed charm, Uniform dejection ulurped the place of her fairbating smile. Feebleness and melangholy alike vertrained her sportively graceful monoments and instead of the coruleations of her sprightly with all ber accents,

A TALE OF

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Yet the heirels of dir William Powerscourt's fortunes must still polles sufficient charms to allure a mercenary heart; and Fitzosborne (whom cowardice and chicane had preferved from the vengeance which lord Monteith's pardonable fury first prompted him to require for his injured honour) encouraged the audocious hope, that the I gal process which the frantic husband immediately commenced to vindicate his wrongs would terminate in the accomplishment of all his wishes, by putting him in possession of a wealthy and admired wife. Mifled by his own falle maxims, which had taught him to believe that 'a woman * pardons every infult when the loves the infultser, he ventured on the atrocicus crimes which made him matter of lady Monteini's person, while he knew her uncontaminated foul revolted at the idea of conjugal infidelity. He was now perfuaded, that the mult feel anxious to repair her tarnished honour; and being convinced that grief and shame never proved fatal to youth and beauty, when its return to reputation and happiness seemed not only possible, but certain, he determined to make my drooping Peroine, what he called, an bonourable offer. in the letter which he addressed to her upon this occasion, he explained his fentiments with more explicit freedom

A TALE OF THE TIMES than he had dared to do while Geraldine, proud in confcious innocence, felt in necesticy of applying for confetation to the subterfuges of fal philin. But he now thought her predominant love of fame and horror of reproach would induce her to extricate herfelf from the diffrace in which his infamous artifices and her own credulity had plunged her, by adopting those excuses which were invented to enfectle virtue, and to functive vice! He knew indeed, that the had a tale to tell, which would harrow up the hearer's foul; but he well understood the laws by which public opinion is regulated, and the delicacy of her fentiments. These reasons convinced him, that the would never expose her defence to a doubtful belief. I shall now subjoin his letter written about two months after fir William's. sour) encouraged the audyless rad diw Adabb I gal process which the frantic hurband

terminate in the accomplishment of all his wilhes

by parting him or policious of a miskeMand ad-

which has recently happened at Power court, I feel that an additional odium devolves upon me,

rated water. Midled by his own fatte maxims

which reflection and candour must own I have

not deferved. Could I possibly have foresten, that when I felt the power of your irrelistible

charms, I was preparing the grave of your

worthy father! No, lovelieft, and most adored of women! whatever of imperfection and frailty.

may be attached to my character, it is pure from

the reproach of deliberate crueley. Decide den

Thear, with inexpressible concern, that your too suffeetible mind links under the inconve-

mences of your present fituation. Suffer me, molecular site madam,

madam, to remove the veil of forrow which now clouds your reason, and permit me to direct your view to future prospects. Inconsideration like mine (for I, in justice, claim that the blame should be folely confined to myself) is too frequent in this age to excite indignation; and the known unworthings of lord Monteith forms an excuse which all ladies who have diffolved their first marriage connection cannot plead. Some conversation will indeed be excited, while his lordship purfues the legal revenge which his vindictive temper will prompt him to adopt. But it will cease with the adventures of the day. Your present exemplary behaviour will restore you to the esteem of the world; and permit me, Madam, to indulge a hope, (it is the only one which, fince I have heard of your extreme diftress, makes my existence supportable, that you will deign to accept the reparation which it is in my power to make you, by allowing me to lead you to the altar the moment you are free from your present disastrous tie. There, I trust with the most auspicious omens, will I dedicate to you a heart penetrated with your merits, and a mind capable of revering all the dazzling superiority of taffe, information, and discernment, which you possess. I must hope, that the happy moment will ar-

rive, when we shall look back upon our past forrows with complacency, and confider them as the progenitors of present bliss But why fhould excessive forrow new prey upon your heart? It is but to fee you, adorned as you are with all that art and nature can bestow of lovely and excellent; it is but to contrast your character with that of the imperious infenfible being to whom a juvenile inclination unhappily lence

engaged

engaged you; and he must be lost to the most amable feelings of humanity who does not exocuse and pity me. The most enlightened literati of the age have proved, that chaffity confifts in the individuality of affection; and when lord Monteith's conduct has forfeited your affection, the transfer of your person to another is equally delicate and just. Marriage, being merely a civil engagement, cannot invalidate the great laws of Nature; and the man must be a prey to the most narrow prejudices, who would deny a woman the right of flying to the protection of a kindred mind, when her revolting foul fourns the tyrannical power of a husband

whom the can neither respect nor love. O my beloved Geraldine! fuffer me to drop the hateful title of your former thraldom, and to call you mine. I have been contented to · Suppress the keen indignation of wounded honour, and have forborne to interrupt your filial forrows by an explanation of what must appear to you a bale defertion when I left you at the e inn at windle. Alas! I only proposed an abfence of a few hours to procure you an honoursable applum in my fifter's family; and during that interval Monteitli, with the capricious cruelty natural to his disposition, bereft me of the treature I had risked so much to obtain, and then abandoned it to an unfeeling world. What s anguish have I not suffered fince that moment! Yet, feill more to convince you of the respectful delicacy of my unaltered love, I will not alk permission to throw myself at your feet till the joyful moment of your emancipation. Then will I lead you back to the world, nine-tenths of whom will not only justify but appland your conduct. That system of universal benevoengaged

lence, which supersedes all written precept, gains ground. To that do we appeal, and not to the intane morality of specific injunctions, which toolidaly and even wickedly attempt to bring individual actions under the limitation of one general rule. Man in society must retain all his natural rights; and the restraints that circumscribe those rights if sounded upon salle principles) must soon submit to the resistless voice of public opinion. Nor does this system tend to encourage general profligacy of manners. Not it can only apply to those more intelligent characters, whose refinement is a security against licentiousness.

So acute is my own confciousness of error, that my heart starts from the remorfesul recollection of some indirect means, not wholly confishent with the lovely sincerity of truth, which my resistless passion for you urged me to adopt. For the deceptions which only love can excuse, I humbly entreat your pardon, and I faithfully promise you, that as they were the first, so they shall be the last instances of moral turpitude which you shall ever discover in the conduct of,

dered life value washeld the me to lock on death

with believed venerable before but a allo

.. ANNOBROSTUT GRAWGE FOR the inconceivable anguish to the last hours of one who lived had

To THE HONOURABLE EDWARD FITZOSBORNE.

to make others happy; whose benevolence

DOES Mr. Fitzosborne suppose the unhappy victim of his treachery as meanly base as
he has proved her to be weakly credulous,
that

crusity.

that he affronts her with a a proposal, which attrocious guilt alone empowers him to make; and from the indignity of which she was once

happily secured by infurmountable barriers,

rendering the facred name of wife, and ming-

ling her bluthes with her tears, when the bears the once-joyful honourable appellation of

nother?

You feem, hir, to diffown the charge of deliberate cruelty. Account, if you can, for your conduct by any other motive. You know what I was when I had first the missortune of feeing you. You know how foon you formed a plan for my destruction, and by what arts too, how your infidious friendship seduced lord Monteith, and made him unconsciously accessary to my undoing. To you he owes the contamination of his once unfullied honeur. From you, my innocent, difgraced, deferted children, tequite their mother, their inftructor, the guardian of their inpeace, my unfullied fame, my lost health, and ever blatted prospect, which, while they rendered life valuable, taught-me to look on death with ferenity . I not only require of you the life of my dear venerable father, but I alfo 1 charge you with having given inconceivable anguish to the last hours of one who lived but to make others happy; whose benevolence would not have hort a worm !- He is at reft. -Would I were fo too '-O that I were now formed to his pure bearified spirit - But I must first pals through many a purifying sea of forrow. How excruciatingly refined has your

often affailed me, but I was vosible affailed tond

"I fcorn to reply to the arguments surged in vour infamous letter Address them, fir, to those who, while they lead a life of guilt, wish cheaply to purchase the reputation of virtue. Yet beware how you confide in them, when the awful fummons of death calls you to an invilible world For me, all my temporal views have terminated. I feek no fubterfuges. I will endure the censures of the world; they are my just portion. Its vindications I would reject with disdain. I submit to whatever punishment lord Monteith's lawful resentment inflicts. It does not belong to imprudence like mine either to justify its actions, or to complain of fuffering. In repentance is all my hope and of pre-anglow why win

I will enumerate the offences which claim my constant tears. You will then fee what portion of guilt falls to your share - Your artful adulation pleased my vanity, and while I supposed myself merely amused by your conversation, you excited a growing interest in my regard. To you, by imperceptible degrees, "I transferred the efteem of which I thought my lord undeferving; and I foothed my reproving conscience by supposing, that in admiring you, I honoured virtue. Blindly pertinacious, I perfilted in rejecting the councils of my more discerning friends, and pursued my own fallacious judgment, which taught " me, that immoral actions were not the natural consequence of relaxed principle. You know that you concealed the full tendency of - those principles from me. You know that I e always flarted at what I thought feemed to MUA · militate-

militate againft religion and viewe. You often affailed me, but I was your admirer and

apologift, nor your convert que or mood I's Thus far have Peontributed to my undoing; and may my flory be an awful momento to all who, trusting in the supposed security of their own virtue, negled the fuggestions of prudence; and under the perverted unamenof friendship, admit a smilter guest to dispute the possession of their affections with the lawful claims of contribulat duty! May it also warn those wives, who, availing themselves of the indulgence of fashion, permit the marked attentions of an agreeable man of unknown or fuspicious character, however they may think themselves fanctioned by custom, protected by the rules of decorum, or fecured, as you taught me to think, by the bond of pre-attachment.

I shall not then die in vaim warming him I h

Let me, though frame and hortor alike agitate my trembling frame, this once allude to those particulars of my misfortunes, which vou alone can illustrate. You feem to allow, that it was to your artifices that I owed the fatal absence of my friend and my husband on the day I left Monteith. You know the arguments by which you influenced my clopes ment; may your repentance enable you to escape the terrible malediction with which you closed them! 3 You know how I hoped to overtake my ford at every frage; but your heart, rendered callous by guilt, cannot conceive the agonies of mine when I first suspected your nefarious purpole. My confused recollection can trace no more. I only know, that returning reason taught me, that I was a wretch servers tharted at what I thought to 1975 for

tager And com you who know teltan woundife is ob of my hands; who are confeious that, by tellof soing one fad tale in a court of fuffice. Dicould bis convict you of a crimo more four chan murder fuppole me capable of plighting my faith

to a monfter o No! Pitzofborne conjoy the

· fecurity which my own feelings, and not compatition for you, allows you to pollefs; but

infult me no more! Know that the moment

which revealed your baseness tore from my heart every veltige of esteem, and taught me,

by my detellation of the offence, to hate and

to despise the offender. at it has a bolut

From a wish of routing in your breast the storpid feelings of compunction, I honour your letter with a copious reply. The compliments. s he you pay to beauty are ill addressed to the fadindied form which pens this epiftle; and the praise of superior talents are equally inappli-

cable to her whom you have proved guilty of

the weakest vanity, and the blindest creduupon the road. I remember trave will energy

along of there forfeited the name with which lord Monteul once honoured me, and I will not ai meidifgrace the unfullied purity of my father's. bangafaire on facility. Lives faing in a

". Autopay of the state of the directly when

he blust in. He revised me in the fewerest blord An interesting convertation took uplace bebut tween my heroine and her friend upon the fub-The counters had thewn them to Mils Evans, and requested her opinion of the tendency of her reply. Worthy of as yourfelf, was the answer. But there is one on 's part,' continued Lucy, which feems to alk for explanation : Some particulars of your of tory are unknown to me, not do Lwish to r covering, 6 hear

el el bear whatlit will be lagony for you ta repeat.

-Iles But why surish dearest bado you belitare to do

blusojultica to your wounded fame is perhaps too to

rule preferve formenothers victim, from meditated

drief ruin, by giving up a villain to that punishment

off which the effended laws of his country would

ton "indich upon himatrocious etimes dirus

and Myrefolution, faid the dountels, is fixed;

ym founded. ale Xoudknow the fabricated tale.

which drew me show Monteith: My recol-

lection, then not clear foon grew more con-

full file than that clear old graw more con-

fuled; and it is only by comparing circum-

think I must have been first teken to an obscure:

emon house in a lanely fituation, for Lerecollect on

-bal the horfest stopping Law only trees, and as

and I mean building and I thought how foolish it

allege was to flop there, as my lord would never put

to ve up lat such a place as that . I suppose that I

-ubstowas detained there till my purfuers had paffed

upon the road. I remember travelling very

brol failt but my bead was too bad for me to guels

and it which the Lewis on a Thursday that Men the

Scaffler My lord found me in a small inn in

Lancashire on Tuesday. I was sitting in a

1416 room by myself, and weeping bitterly, when

he burit. in. He reviled me in the severest

ed Stermen and afked me for Fitzofborne. I told

dat 6 dimethab diditionab know where he was, and

wined inever might lee him more. Andeed,

Home Lucy I spoker the truth ; but my lord redou-

bled his ravings. I know that I faid I was

ono of not fo wicked as he supposed; and I made an.

As of effort to kneel; but whether he fourned me

from him, or Lefell through giddiness, I can-

of fliwnbrotella. L hurtomyfelf in my fall; and, re-

covering, found myfelf covered with blood.

But my head was relieved, and I was treated,

with compassion. I kept asking for my lord. They told me, that he was gone after the

e gentleman who came with me, O what a

found was that for me! The people at the inn-were worthy characters. They believed me

to be penitent, and allisted me to escape from

my seducer. I knew not where to go; but I thought you would advise me. I travelled

rapidly towards Powerscourt till I heard of my

father's illness. You know the rest.

The trembling Geraldine faltered as the repeated this melancholy tale, and then funk weep-

ing on the bosom of her friend.

Suppose me now, continued the, as soon as the could recover composure enough to proceed, repeating this narrative in a court of justice; every eye fixed upon me with offenfive curiofity; insulted (at least in my own opinion) by that crofs-examination, which impartial

' justice will require to discover whether I was

onot the willing partner of the crime. · powers of eloquence will be exerted against me.

Confusion my make me prevaricate; and

when life is at stake, merey pleads for the cri-

e minal whole guilt appears doubtful. None

of my own servants were with me. I can bring no corroborating evidence. It will be

proved, that I was feen with him on the road,

and at leveral inits, and made no effort to ef-

cape. My appearance may have caused con-

tradictory opinions; and art like his would

certainly take care that the general impression

· should be unfavourable. To those who know

onot my usual manner, I might seem passive,

" or acquiescent, as well as insensible.

But

But suppose my character receives all the justification it can by his condemnation, of what advantage will his death be to me, or to the world? The vain beauty, who is not deterred by my missfortunes from listening to the adulations of a Fitzosborne, will not be dissuaded from encouraging the stren song of stattery by hearing that a determined seducer can call in arts more unwarranted than illicit persuasion. Lord Monteith can never be reunited to me: His honour and my delicacy demonstrate the impossibility of oblivious forgiveness. Wherever my children appeared, the sad tale of their mother would still be whispered, and the blush of shame must dye their cheeks.

' Nor,' continued the, wiping the tear which maternal feelings called forth, ' can the mortal wound in my reputation ever be healed. I am conscious of a thousand indiscretions, proceeding indeed from the erroneous idea, that every virtue, as well as every accomplishment,. united in Fitzolborne's mind. Not an acquaintance have I in Scotland, or in London, who cannot relate those indiscretions, and tellwith what marked preference I received hisattentions; and when these corroborating tales are confidered, will candour fay, Perhaps the vain trifler stopped at actual guilt?' A thousand incidental circumstances concur to overwhelm me. My mother's jewels are now. in his possession. They were not given with a culpable design; but who will acquit me? who knows that lord Monteith's affairs were embarraffed? Or suppose I state my motives: there again I am fole witness in my own " cause; and she who bestowed on a stranger the confidence

But.

confidence which the withheld from her hufband, can fearcely expect belief. There him my picture too.—Good heaven, what blind

delution! No! Lucy; I must be stent I

The licentious would fay, poor Fitzofborne was very hardly used at last by the woman who

invited his attack; and the cenforious would

accuse me of taking a cruel method to redeem.

Chance, or nortestique sideversion ...

Still, faid Miss Evans, there are advantages which you have not considered. Your
daughters would certainly be restored to your
care. A flood of tears burst from the eyes
of Geraldine, and the faintly uttered: Sweet,
lovely, helpless girls? Then, after a pause,
she added, Could I flatter myself with the expectation that my protracted life would be
advantageous to them, this suggestion would
have weight; but a transfent self-indulgence
may be bought too dear.

At least, urged Lucy, 'let Monteith know your story. Convinced of your comparative innocence, (you will not, I know, allow me to use a more savourable word,) Henry has been for some time employed in collecting the circumstances in your savour. The chief are the tellimony and the consession of your servants at Monteith. Suffer him to add to it your narrative, before he transmits it to your sold of lord.

By no means: use your influence with your generous Henry to abandon his proposed justification. I know the disposition of him who was my husband. While he confiders me as an adulteres, contempt preserves my gallant from

from his vengeance; and he can wait the flow proceedings of the law now his first fuzy has tubsided. But if he knows the wrongs his Conce beloved Geraldine has endured, not the united world could diffuade from taking a more furmary vengeance. He would purfire the raviller of his wife to the remotest corner of the globe, and only value his own title as it was the means of affailing his adverfary. Chance, or skill, my Lucy, and not juftice, determines these blind and audacious appeals to prefumptuous vengeance. And shall my helpless babes lose their only parent? No! let every document in my favour be suppressed, at least till lord Monteith is fecure from the fword of my feducer.

Confider yet once more. Your lord has commenced proceedings in a court of justice. I have deserved disgrace, and must endure

Site of white

morl

'The legitimacy of your little fon, I fear, is-

questioned. M 191 :

Geraldine thrank with horror. O wide exs tended evil! faid the. Three generations, blafted by me, may curfe the hour when I was born. Yet, my murdered father ! thy benignant fpirit, even in the pangs of death, forgave me. Will my flandered babes be inexos rable? But I shall not hear their reproaches. The time is not far distant when I may speak with an expectation of being believed. I will inflify to lord Monteith the suspected, because premature, birth of his fon. O insupportable fanguish? that such jullification should be re-A quired of me. on shall we had dran you work

shim adonerels, contempt preferves my gallant

Miss Evans repeated this conversation to her father and Henry. The latter praised the greatness of soul which dictated these sentiments.

Your interesting friend, my dear child, does indeed repent, faid Mr. Evans. No vindic-

- tive rage, no felf-acquitting accusations of
- others, mingles with her true remorfelie She
- properly appreciates the degree of her own culpability; nor does any remaining affection
- for her feducer lurk in her passionate reproach-
- es. She feems, like the penitent described by
- our immortal bard.

To repent her, as it is an evil,
And takes the shame with joy!

• To fuch contrition we are warranted to hope • that the golden gates of mercy will be un-

oung the dealties of nature, the words the rate of the words the words the words the words to repeat the well-known description;

Able to cure all fadness but despand

Despair was, however, the mortal circase, under which her friend laboured. Like Sheristone's interesting Jelly, the saw in every object some reproach of her folly, or some memeuro of her former happiness. What have I. she would say to herself, to do with hope; and what without hope is life?

Engroffed wholly by her friends diffects, exact thoughts to her three and thoughts to her tervice and amulement.

The could fee that faded cheek bluth again! the would fay.

s Surely

Mifs Evans repeated this convertation to her father and Henry. The latter praifed the greateness of foul which dictated these sentiments.

Your interesting friend, my dear child, does indeed repentional Mr. R. H. J. No vind

tive rage, no. felf-acquitting acculations of chiers, mmg, soft vd her tovol bobbowelisH e

Founded in reason, loyal, just, and pure, 194019

Relations dear, and all the charities will deal in

Of father, fon, and brother, first were known.

moraiMic forms, like the penkent defectived by

abred larioushit sug!

GRIEF, the swift anticipator of time, continued to prey on Geraldine's youthful cheek. Her decay was visible to every beholder. But Lucy Evans, still listening to the slattery of hope, believed that another and another day would bring the desired amendment. Passionately admiring the beauties of nature, she wooed the tardy spring to approach, and continued to repeat the well-known description;

Able to cure all fadness but despair.

Despair was, however, the mortal disease, under which her friend laboured. Like Shenstone's interesting Jessy, she saw in every object some reproach of her folly, or some memento of her former happiness. What have I,' she would say to herself, 'to do with hope; and what without hope is hise?'

Engroffed wholly by her friend's distress, Lucy dedicated all her time and thoughts to her service and amusement. 'If I could see that faded cheek blush again!' she would say.

Surely

Surely her appetite leaves her. I watch her · fleeplefs couch till I fink with wearinefs.

wake, and the first object which the lamp shews me is her unclosed eyes. I offend my own feelings to assume cheerfulness. She fometimes smiles, but it is such a sickly smile,

of unlike its former exhilarating brilliancy,

it speaks so plainly, I will even seem diverted to sooth my apprehensive Lucy. Henry Powerscourt often reproved this extreme folicitude; blamed her for being engroffed by one object; and pleaded his prior right to her attention, and her promise of making him happy. O, talk not to me of festal days and happy vows, the would reply, when every hour presents to me the affecting fpectacle of declining loveliness! Surely, Henry, you never loved our Geraldine, if you can now think of any one but her.

It was one lovely spring-day, that Lucy pre-

vailed upon her friend to accompany her into the parlonage-garden, to look at the burfting germs of the lilac, and the honey-fuckle's tender green. They had proceeded to Nerina's bower before the trembling knees of Geraldine required reft. When a little recovered, the read with pleafare the infeription which Henry had placed there, while Lucy energetically repeated the last lines; and not infensible to the charm of praise, when offered by one the loved, the exclaimed, There's a happy compliment for you. You used to say, cousin Hal would never learn to make fine speeches.

The fmile which Lucy's fprightly fally informer days. 'Happy Blameless delight!' said the counters gazing on her friend: long may it be yours! May my Iweet Lucy continue to receive the incense due to her worth, nor fear that a latent poilon lurks in the grateful fragrance! Ah, that I had never welcomed praise but from a hulband's tongue!

Let me, continued the, here, in this your favoured retreat, disclose to you the history of my errors. You need no warning; but the time will probably foon arrive, when the remembered confidence will still more

endear this spot. vered that my eye had betrayed my judgment To far as to frustrate my expectation of ever finding in marriage that communion of wellpaired minds, that feast of reason and that flow of foul which I had looked up to as the perfection of felicity. Every attempt to give lord Monteith a tafte for intellectual pleasures was unfuccefsful. But I was not unhappy. I remember your excellent mother's precepts, and reconciled mytelf to the limited enjoyments which this world affords. In every eccentricity I beheld myfelf the undisputed miltress of my husband's heart. In many instances I saw my power over his determinations; and often a genuine trait of native goodness appeared in something apparently inconfifent and irregular. I compared my lituation with that of many married ladies whom I knew, and I found abundant reason to be contented with my lot of must reven

opfielled sufficient consequence to attract his notice. He strove to please, and soon grew interesting. Yer, weak as I have proved myself to be, I think I should not have been the

the victim of his arts, had not my lord's behaviour to me been perceptibly changed. He was no longer the man who engaged my vouthful love, or the hulband who claimed my respect and gratitude. Then, and not still then, did I feel the power of contrast which I had hitherto indignantly avoided. The elegant commendations of Fitzofborne · taught me, that I was not a being of a vulgar mould. His graceful attentions indicated the homage which merit like mine ought to receive. His glowing descriptions, though de-· licate as the ear of purity itself could defire, · pointed out a fairy region of felicity, the abode of congenial minds, where human foibles and human forrows never intrude. Infatuated by this unreal vision, the blameless occupations · by which I had previously diverted painful reflections became infipid. Wrongs were converted into unpardonable injuries, and inattentions grew into wrongs. I no longer recollected those who were less happy than e myfelf. The pang of wounded love lost its tenderness, while it afformed the indignant · fpirit of offended pride; and my rebel heart, · imperceptibly alienated from its lawful pof-· feffor, admitted an usurped claim. only ferve as a warning to our weak fex.

O, Lucy! if my tale were told, it would not only serve as a warning to our weak sex, whom vanity or susceptibility generally betrays, but also to those husbands who are anxious to guard their honour from reproach. I would bid them not entirely depend upon the stability of our principles or the constancy of our attachments, but to assist our virtue by that almost invincible defence which their behaviour to us would supply. Might they not,

Keware

without derogating from their own superiority, treat our foibles with generous lenity, and make even our faults conducive to our fecurity? Praise is never so grateful as from those we love. Attentions are never so pleasing as from our dearest friends. Let them not, when they neglect us, suppose, that the affiduity of an agreeable follower is only welcome to the determined wanton. The de-4 licate mind, that thrinks abhorrent from the thought of guilt, may divert the pangs of unrequited affection by indulging the unfufe pected feelings of efteem and gratitude for an amiable observant friend. Modern man-I ners justify these connections, and modern history describes their result. But let me not recriminate. My hopes of pardon are founded on my own penitence, not on the aggravation 4 of my husband's errors. The superior ads vantages of my education, my habits of reflection, my fense of shame, the acuteness of s my fentibility, were all entrusted talents; and I recollect with terror the awful affurance, that where much is given much will be frequired of ender and my reflect of tright Still, my Geraldine!' cried Lucy, 'ftill art

thou the affociate of the pure in heart,' solled

I might have been, had I liftened to your counsels. Have you forgiven me, Lucy? I

Without

fear you have not.'
Forgiven you? O! when did you offend?' Then will you undertake to pay a debt

which has long burdened my conscience? I

must hope to live to see it discharged.'

Lucy's finances were not very abundant. She could scarcely understand her friend's intention. with the Might they or or recoved

· Reward

Reward Herry Powerfcourt, so continued it the countels ple for your along cand Ands let !!

my fetting fun contemplate the only object

on which it can now look with pleafure. Mr contagious milery has extended to all I love

Be you and your generous noble Henry exact

Lucy could not refift this affectionate appeal. She only pleaded, that the death of their revered benefactor was too recentasmilgmos benefactor

His daughter, refunded the amourner, withes to perform the office which he would

gladly have executed and mean, beltowing

you on a deferving partner Look, Lucy, is

there much time to lose? Will this hand be

Ing equal to the pleasing talk Buinrom an'T Geraldine, as the spoke, held up her hand against the firm to fymmetry was formerly one of her diffinguished characts It now exhibited a bare anaromy, loofely covered by a Orivelled fkin. Each meandering vein and ligature was visible. It scarcely obstructed the pernetrating beam d Lucy flung herfelf winto her friends arms, and mingled beompliance with Henry exclaimed against the profuse geeres 134

On the day of celebration dady Monteith, in compliment to the bride, changed her fable dress for the talteful elegance of her former habit. She never looked more lovely. tic bloom was foread over her cheek, and the accomplishment of a favourite with gave to her eyes the radiant emanation which they used to poffels. She was composed, and almost cheerful. She feemed to forbid the intrufive forrow which preyed upon her own heart, and to drive the remembrance of her woes from others, A plain respectable neighbour of the Evans's, and .II .Jo This

his wife, were the only company. They were struck with her appearance, and almost seemed to inquire, Was that Miss Powerscourt that was, or was it some angel in her form? In the overslowing of their hearts they talked of the manor-house, the happy scenes of festivity it exhibited when she lived there; and then repeated their blunt wishes, that it might soon be as gay again. The countess accepted the well-intentioned compliment, and added, that she hoped it would. Her eyes glanced upon the bride's, who met them with an expression of pleasure. She hopes to live, whispered she to Henry. O surely that hope will be grati-

The morning after these auspicious nuptials was marked by a conversation peculiarly interesting. Lady Monteith had prepared the necessary forms, and she took this opportunity of delivering to Mr. Powerscourt what she called a pledge of her esteem. He saw with surprise and regret, that it was a gift of that part of the Powerscourt estate which was by her marriage settlement reserved for her unlimited disposal. Henry exclaimed against the profuse generosity of her intentions; assirmed, that her father's bounty had gratified all his wishes; and pointed out the propriety of presenting it to lord Montei h.

What, faid the counters, to purchase forgiveness for me? My lord would distain to receive what I should blush to offer."

For your children then, faid Powerscourt.

My daughter's fortunes are sufficiently ample, and lord Monteith's must revert to his fon. Do not, Henry, reject this gift, if you

would not add to my present forrows. I Vol. II. K have

have been unjust to your merits, even from my girlish days. But though I may consess my undiscerning caprice, I do not lament what has secured your happiness by uniting e you to a mind to much better adapted to the firm integrity of your own. Mine is not a difinterested bequest. How richly may you repay this forded boon by the communication of unperishing advantages! I have no right to the disposal of my children, I gave them being, but I have forfeited all pretentions to direct their education, or to dispose of their persons. Every request which I could make would but inflame lord Monteith's just resentment. You have never wronged him; on the contrary, your discrimination and integrity would have preferved me from the abyls into which I have plunged. Perhaps a proper reprefentation might induce him to commit to vour care those unhappy objects, whom wounded honour must refuse to their wretched mother. They no longer can give him pleafure, and he must wish to remove from him fuch lively mementos of former happinels. Mr. Powerscourt and his Lucy both promised to solicit the sacred trust, and to discharge it with punctual fidelity.

And you too will continue to relide with

us?' inquired the bride.

The counters shook her head.
Where do you mean to go? repeated Mrs.

Powerscourt.

There is but one afylum, answered Geraldine. If I could but be received there."-Can we affift you in procuring it?' refumed her affectionate friend. viging of the world. "My lectuded remarks

terest there, continued the countels, looking round her. Reniember me in your prayers. Lucy, no longer able to mistake her meaning, burst into tears; while Powerscourt, too much agitated even to notice the distress of his beloved wife, attempted to relieve the gloom which depressed lady Monteith's prospects. He talked of the claims which society had upon her, and of the power of time in softening grief.

What claims has fociety, returned the, upon a wretch whom every one that is tenacious of reputation must abjure? My husreproach of submitting to wilful infamy, children must be estranged from my light, or be suspected of being infected by my conta-minating criminality. Time, Mr. Powerscourt, will heal the wounds of common for-rows: it may redrefs the wrongs of innocence, or recruit the shattered fortunes of poverty. But what can time do for me? Can it obviate the fatal effects of my errors; recall my father from his grave; give to my children that unfullied honour which my conduct has tarnished; or restore to myself that peace of mind which I feel to be for ever forfeited? If time can accomplish these wonders, welcome years of suffering; welcome the agonies which lead to hopes to dear; welcome. the poignant regret which teaches the value of bleffings that may be again enjoyed. But neither time nor forrow can reinstate me in thefe loft bleffings, or restore to me the good opinion of the world. My secluded remorfe has no witnesses; and if it were oftentatious, K 2

it would be dispicious! Pare of my hory remains untold, but, judging of what is known, the world is right in its renunciation of the. No rules are preferibed for my future con-duct, except fectulion, repentance, and death.

Mr. Evans interrupted the pathetic pause which succeeded the counters's affecting con-clusion with all the folemn earnestness which should ever characterize the Christian priesthood. One duty, fady Monteith, fill remains, which you must discharge. Cheerfully sub-mit to your present calamities till Heaven sees

fit to liberate you from them.'
I do, faid Geraldine, meekly bending her head. I feel them to be the consequences of crimes. Betrayed by a vaid confidence in my own strength, I shut my eyes against the clearest discoveries, and rejected the warning voice of Heaven, which spake in the language of a faithful friend. I not only lubmit to live, I even cling to life, to that hopelels life, which has no other aim but by recollection and pati-ence to atone for my youthful follies, and to smooth with meek relignation the painful couch of death.

Remission of fine, replied Mr. Evans, wiping away a starting tear, is ever promised to lineere contrition. Examine your heart, my dear lady! separate the regret of past pleafures from the forrow for past offences Try, by a severe scrutiny, how far the loss of fame may claim the tear which starts at the idea of remembered eminence; and, while the necesfity for forgiveness finks deep into your foul, compose your aixieties by reflecting on the mercy of your God.

Mrs.

Mrs. Powerscount looked as if her father had spoken with undue severity; but the countess, after a mental ejaculation expressive of piety and resignation, proceeded: While I frequented the circles of fashionable life, I partook of their follies; yet the glare of perpetual amusement, and the hurry of constant engagement, did not so far vitiate my mind as to render me unfit for the duties of domestic life. Resection ever attended my pillow, and described, not the parties in which I was to appear, nor the adulation I should receive, but the more grateful images of my children, my social friends, my quier occupations. These, therefore, were ever my dearest delights; and regret for these blessings will mingle with the tear that contrition claims.

tear that contrition claims.
The love of fame was, I own, my predominant error. Impelled by this powerful palfion, I purfued distinction, and, though I only fought it by praife-worthy means, I am now fensible, that this busy passion' mingled imperfection with my fairest aims, perplexed the genuine schemes of desective virtue, and flyly warped my unfuspecting heart.' Though in the fight of man they may wear the fame imposing aspect, the searcher of hidden things must discover an infinite difference between those actions which originate from the dutiful defire of pleafing him, and those the ultimate wiew of which was the applause of fellow-mortals. Your firmer mind, my Lucy, early imbibed the noble ambition of gaining the approbation of the Supreme Good. Your virtues hunned observation, and only courted the filent plaudit of consciences For mes though not infensible to the innate loveliness

Mrs

of virtue, nor callous to the feelings of compassion. I selected by faculty roused to exertion
by the idea of what the world would say of
me. Our history is a comment upon the comparative tendency of these governing principles.
Happy Powerscourt show firm must be your
considence in the integrity of a mind which
always acts under the conviction that its most
fecret thoughts are noted by Omnipotence!

In myself, returned the antiable bride. I I was secluded from temptation, and I had leifure to acquaint myself with my own fraities. Retirement, my Geraldine his the soil most congenial to semale virtue. How will yours, which even in the contaminating world appeared so lovely, sourish in these peaceful hades! What ample supplies will your hereditary possessions afford to your benevolence! Let not mortal forrow dry up the source which would convey happiness to all around you; but enjoy the anticipated pleasure of widely diffused liberality.

You forget, faid Geraldine, what I now am. The mercy of the law, or the bounty of lord Monteith, must determine the means of my future subfiltence. My marriage-articles made no provision for contingent crimes. My dear father did not think his child could be guilty of any, and his conviction of my frailty was attended by death. The mortal forrow, my Lucy, which has to lament so many deprivations, cannot cease, at least while memory holds her feat. Yet though Reason shrinks from the contemplation of my calar mities, I must continue to request, that her guiding ray may accompany me to the last moment

moment of my frail existence. My generous friends by fadden you with my forrows of I feel your kind sympathy and Every day confirms the certain diminution of my ftrength and health; nor can I conceal from your difcernment my conviction that I have not long to live. Your pious offices, Mr. Evans, are doubly welcome. If any unwarrantable fentiment eleape my lips reprove me with the meek intrepidity of your function, and teach me yet further to explore the weakness of my own heart. Yet in one point let your candour credit my folemn affertion. It is not from any remaining infatuation, but from a deep fense of my seducer's atrocious crimes, That I not only, thus unfolicited, express my forgiveness of my destroyer; but I also earnestly entreat, that Heaven would pardon his editory perfections afford to your be seeded with

Let us leave him, faid Mr. Evans, to the sunknown mercies of his Maker. It is not for us finite mortals to decide, but as far as our views can extend, hope feems like presumption. Dreadful, my dear lady, is the fituation of that finner who confides in the infidelity which destroys his last refuge; nor can your charitable prayers benefit him who distains the mercy you implore:

dear fasher did not think his child could be guilty of any, and his conviction of my frailty was attended by death. The mortal forrow, any decry which has to lament fo many decry or valors, cannot ceafe, at least while meanory addresses fear that hough Reason through strength of my calaborities, i must connemplation of my calaboration, i must connemplate to request, that her satisfies ray may recompany me to the last AAHO

on was broken by more intolerable reflections.

Soon after the foregoing conversation, lady Monteith received a letter from her lord's solicitor, informing her, that his lordship's meditated vengeance against Mr. Fitzosbotne having been disappointed, he had determined to pursue the legal means of redress which were in his power. He had, therefore, instituted two suits in the ecclesiastical and civil courts, which he intended to follow up by an application to the House of Peers for a divorce. The learned barrister wished to know what steps the countess would take in her own desence, or if she sufpected that the evidence would affect the legitimacy of her son.

Geraldine's answer was fubmissive, yet not altogether departing from the dignity of her character. She had no defence to make. She acquiesced in the punishment which the laws of her country would inslict. She only hoped, that her consession might prevent some of the horrors of a public investigation. Her ladyship added, that she would address the earl himself on the subject of the birth of his son.

SWEGV

Even in the last scenes of her existence, the ruling passion of my Heroine's mind predominated. Though persuaded that her deep despair could receive no addition; though her imagination had long anticipated the course of law which her lord would purfue, yet the certainty of a legal process, and the apprehension of general infamy, autodated the crifis of her diforder; and an excruciating pain in her fide announced the formation of an ableefs, the rupture of which must be mortal. Her fusferings were extreme, but the faint flumber which pain brought, on was broken by more intolerable reflections.

Not a corner in the kingdom,' faid she, but,

must now be acquainted with my fall. The village dame, who never heard of my cele-

brity, will fludder at my differace, and warn

her daughters to avoid my crimes.

She now pondered upon the only means of vindicating her character, and the questioned the folidity of those arguments which had induced her to suppress the knowledge of every exculpatory circumstance. She had heard that Fitzofborne had fled from England; a public disclosure would therefore have a suspicious appearance. But that very hight, infuring in some degree the earl's personal safety, pointed out this to be the proper time for making an application to him in behalf of his fon, and endeavouring formewhat to folten his refentment. Impressed with too deep a sense of her awful figuation, to deny the alienation of her affections previous to her flight; fearful of exalperating him by faying any thing that might have an air of recrimination; and deterred from entering at large upon her unhappy flory, no less by her own weakness, than by a fear of urging him to follow K 3

follow Fitzolborne, the determined to confine herfelf to what related to her unfortunate child, and trust the partial vindication of her own conduct to the integrity and discretion of Mr. Powerscourt, who kindly undertook to be the bearer of the following letter.

To THE EARL OF MONTEITH:

Monteith had been informed of the inwhich I write, that I could dare to intrude on lord Monteith. You will foon be released from your difgraced wife by an irreverfible fentence; and I would entreat your mercy to flop your proceedings in the courts of laws. and to spare my yet remaining sense of shame the horror of having my flory bandied about ' in the public papers, exposed to indecent raillery and merciless reproach. I am in the last hage of a rapid decline, fully sensible of my offences, and fearing to add to their number. I declare upon the word of an accountable being, who knows the has not long to live, that ford Loch Lomond is your fon, and entitled to be the heir of your honours. Compare the time of our fatal journey to London with the evidence which you may collect of his appearance at his birth, and your fuspicions must be removed. And I beferch your justice, do not wrong an innocent babe from resentment to his mother moons ! his mother diamed le vimente arearen ed

I entreat your forgiveness; at least do not follow me with your curses. Reconciliation I do not expect. I will, if you require me, for the little time I have to live, forbear the use of your name and arms. I restore your family jewels, which I had lest at Powers-

court. On my knees I beg your mercy with my dying lips. I shall commend you and my children to Heaven. Once more to see them

would be the greatest comfort that I could enjoy. Perhaps, as I am past recovery, you-

O THE EARL OF MONTEITHS

will grant me that bleffing who grant me that be will grant me that bleffing letter.

courts

GERALDINE.

Lord Monteith had been informed of the countels's departure from his caftle, without at the fame time hearing of those particulars which would have allowed him to infer her innocence. The rashness of his natural character precluded reflection in circumstances less agitating than those in which he was now placed. Not can it be wondered at, that, inflead of going home to receive more punctual intelligence, he immediately fet off in pursuit of a faithless wife and a treacherous friend. He took the direct road for London, for the very reason which should have decided him against it; namely, because Fitzofborne had flated that he should pursue that route. Frantic with rage, and only meditating how to compel his adverfary to give him fatisfaction for his wrongs, he had reached the confines of Yorkshire, before repeated disappointments of hearing any tidings of the fugitives taught him to reflect that they had certainly taken another courfe. It now occurred to him, that the family estate of the Fitzosbornes lay in the northern extremity of Lancashire. It seemed probable that the neglected manorial house might be the chosen residence of the guilty pair. He travelted some miles westward with this perfualion, till an accident which disabled his carriage from proceeding compelled him to flop at. lismi sty jewels winch

a small in force wiles diffants from the roll town. audissimpationce at blearing that the only vehicle which this obscure place afforded was engaged rejearly affumed the form of frenzy: and the landlord, whose concern at the gentleman's being to pationate, was heightened by his apprehentions that he never might have an earl call at his house again determined to try if his gratorical pioneers could allay the form of words; and fince his bonout could not proceed, persuade him to remain contented till his own carriage could be repaired for the post chaife returned. With this view he endeavoured to engage his attention; and the Burber of Bagdad was not a better ftory-teller in his own opinion. He began by lamenting how unlucky it was that the chaife should have just drove away not ten minutes before his honor arrived. with a gentleman, who came to his house with his wife the night before of The poor lady was one of the prettielt creatures he had ever feen but the feemed to be very ill, and was either always crying or fitting im a brown fludy in The footman who was left to take care of her whilft his matter went to make a vifit a little way offe faid that the was off her head - A fudden thought that across Monteith's mind and Where is the !'- In that room.'- He would instance ly fee her. Words were wain mand the feeble refiftance which the landlord made to prevent him from rushing into the apartment was foiled; by a force to which paffion gave vHerculean vigour Monteith broke brom his vopponent, and was possessed of wislanteo aid bladed bus

The presence of the wretched Geraldine could no longer sooth the stormy passions of her lord. On the contrary, it now irritated him to

the most ungoverned frenzy He faw the was in diffress but could the mole attrouidus guile affunie composure on which and occasion & She attempted famething like a vindication of ther conducted Burnswhar sextenuation brould her erimes admit? Thep were as apparent as his own diffgraces Did the hot deny any knowledge of the adulterers when the was recent from his arms ? Why aft so fee the children the had deferred, wilfully defented his Her feeming agony excited contempt, her entreaties infult; and as the flung herfelf at his feet, he spurned her from him with abhorrence. Uttering a volley of imprecations against her delusive beauty, he left her difeless upon the floor, and rushed after Eitzofborne, whose life appeared to be too poor a factifice for his mighty revengents tests any the

The effusion of blood which attended her fall somewhat relieved lady Monteith's recollection from the effects of those infernal potions which her feducer had administered and her real story being now known, the was readily affifted in her earnest defire of proceeding to Caernarvonfhire.w Pomades who had been placed as a guard over her during his mafter's absence, abandoned his charge, dreading to encounter the athletic arm while had felled the landlord to the ground; and he flew after Fitzofborne to apprise him of dord Monteith's arrival. The abfencesof the feducer proceeded from two motives of he supposed that he left his victim in perfeet fecutity ; and he was defirous of inducing his fifter, who refided in that neighbourhood, and was possessed of what the world calls a paffable character, to receive the unfortunate countefs, tills as he termed it, the affair was fettled. He wasy belide, anxious to procure the fome

Sentana.

forme medical aid pathe effects of this negations are were much to be dreated, and returning reason was to him equally alarming. Pomade's intelligence transferred his folicitude to the care of his own life, which he determined to preserve by any means not oftensibly sinconfiltens with received opinions of interpidity and shonours. A chain of artifices preserved chim from the medicated definition salards aften alevain pursuit. Monteith arrived in Londons now will associate

but not with the pious design of foothing his anguish, nor of pleading in behalf of an unhappy woman. She was not of a temper to palliate a fault to which she herfelf had never been tempered; and Geraldine had too strongly awakened her jealousy and envy to allow her to suppose that her criminality admitted of any extenuation. By her malicious comments the account which his lordship had received from his servants in Scotland tended rather to exasperate than to ameliorate his tage; and because their letters did not criminate their mistress, he accused them of being participators in her crime.

Disappointed, by Fitzosborne's leaving the kingdom, in his intentions of either calling him out to combat, or of confining him in prison by the pressure of legal damages, the earl's sury pointed at the counters with an asperity which increased with every real or sancted insult to which her tarnished honour had exposed him and he pursued the prescribed means of seast, and he pursued the prescribed means of seast, and acrimony proportioned to the violence with which he had once loved her and consided in her virtue. He had sent for his children to London, from the idea, that she might have the ef-

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frontery to visit them at Monteiths and his own active furpicions, sided by Arabella's maligniers. feon taught him to believe that his confortunate little fon was the offspring of guiles His memory continually tonured him with sinflances of Fitzofborne's attention to the infant, whose ill health, during his hill month of existence, had rendered it myer more tender object of Geralidine's maternal care and the perfusion that a fourious iffue would inherit his lineal honours. formed the climax of his mifery. The dying countefs, worm by mental and corporal anguish. was perhaps lefs an object of pity. Inchriety. was his wretched refource a but even inebriery was ineffectual. His burning paffions kindled with the feverifi draught; and his fervants, who once idolized their frank generous malter, now trembled for their own tafery whenever they approached him topic tops and older tad will

In this state of mind he was encountered by Mr. Powerfcourt, the benevolent advocate of his unhappy wife. The proffered letter was rejected with difdain, I the jewels were dafted: upon the floor. Every request was answered by a fullen negative, and the representation of her: fufferings was treated as a falle pretence, invented to excite compassion. The cruel Arabellas. who liftened to the narrative of her prefent fituation with more attention than her impaffioned brother could command, coldly observed, that the really thought dying was the best thing which the poor imprudent lady could now do. Disappointed in his hopes, and even refused the fight of the children, left he should revive the remembrance of a mother whom lady Arabella faid they must forget, Mr. Powerscourt took leave with feelings of the deepest indignation frontery against

against the unjust, inhuman, self-approving crucky, which denied forgiveness to one less criminal than themselves, and withheld from a dying penitent the only confolation which could

On returning to his hotel, his attention was arrefted by an accountintance, who folicited him to contribute to the relief of a poor fellow who had known better days. He had formerly been his fervant, but was now out of place; and the fudden departure of his last mafter from England had deprived him of a recommendatorycharacter. Henry turned to look at the object of this exordium, and instantly recognized one of Fitzotborne's attendants. The confusion. with which Pomade appeared to be overwhelmed was too extraordinary to elcape his fixed obfervation. I shall not particularise what the reader's penetration will easily anticipate. The precipitation with which Fitzosborne had fled from England, joined to his natural ingratitude. and the embarrassment of his circumstances, had prevented him from rewarding the agent who had principally affifted his diabolical deligns on lady Monteith. The pressure of poverty, and an accidental rencontre, induced the subaltern villain to discover what he knew of that iniquitous transaction, in hopes of obtaining temporary support. Lord Monieith was soon acquainted with every particular which specified the accuunder the fair guise of friendship, had completed the destruction of a happy family.

The observations by which Mr. Powerscourt intended to have inforced this unequivocal teftimony were now precluded by the vehemence of Lord Monteith's felf-accusation. His once adored

adored wife was proved to be innocent in that inflance which had appeared to fix upon her the charge of deliberate perfidy. The final views of Fitzolborne could only be obtained by bale fallehood and almost murderous fraud. Her delicate sense of honour, thrinking with horror from the imputation of crimes, of which the had rather been the victim, than the parti-cipator, overpowered her feeble frame; and the wronged innocent (for to the quick transi-tion of lord Monteith's passions induced him now to think her) must with her life atone for a hulband's credulous confidence and a traitor's temerity. She was now dearer than ever to-his heart; and lady Arabella, convinced that there was no relifting a torrent, endeavoured to obliterate the remembrance of past farcasms by her lively commileration for the fweet fufferer. Lord Monteith afked for the rejected letter; bathed every fentence with tears; called for the little outcast, whom he had renounced and banished from his fight; and recollected with horror, that he had sent it to a distant county till the law should relieve him from the fupposititious incumbrance. His daughters were now alternately folded in his arms. Their likeness to their mother was recognised with heartrending anguish. In fine, the carriages were immediately ordered for Caernaryonthire; and the tedious journey was somewhat beguiled by the hope, that a reconciliation to her lord, and the prefence of her children, might ftop the progress of decay. The filence of Henry was intended to suppress that vain expectation, and to prepare the unhappy husband for the frenes which awaited him.

inoillaginos now precluded by the vehemence of Lord Monteith's felf-acculation. His once adored

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Compassion for the children, who suffered much from the fatigue of rapid travelling, induced Mr. Powerfcourt to ftop two ftages fort of their intended deflination; and he was urging lard Monteith to try to obtain a few hours repose, when an express arrived from the manor-house to announce the increased danger of the countefs, and to expedite his return. Fresh horses were immediately ordered. and the travellers fer off with a rapidity which even the speed of the earl's former journey could not equal His fortured memory continually recalled the occurrences of that jours ney, and his heart feemed fomewhat eafed of the pangs of felf-reproach by the investives with which he loaded the arch-hypocrite, who then acted the part of friendship, that he might be enabled with his feorpion fangs to transfix his breaft with impunity. A ray of hope would sometimes break in. Geraldine had recovered from one dangerous attack; why not again? Henry had indeed affirmed, that the vital lorgans were irreparably injured; but it was prefumptuous to affirm what human skill could not afcertain. She might live, and they might yet be happy. Rafh, misjudging Monteith! when happiness was not only in thy power, but absolutely in thy possession, the common bleffing feemed unworthy prefervation. All thy folicitude, all the anguish that corrodes thy foul, cannot now reflore the flighted good. Could the healing art acquire miraculous energy fufficient to renew in the lamented sufferer the loveliness and the sprightly health which once hall be admitted. The luol vit betwitges

Nor all the drowly fyrups in the world, and double

Can ever medicine to a mind difeated! all booth

A reverso won Od deftination is and the wast

Farewell the tranguil mind b farewell content

lours report, when an express arrived from The path of reconciliation is impeded by informountable barriers pland reflection would from convince even the exerious hufband, that wounded honour imposed the necessia of sepaexecutive finded of the earl's former pandirer

The morning broke before the travellers entered the gate of Powerfcourt. The earl's attention was arrefled by the atchievement fufpended under the architrave, and a figh burft from his heart, extorted by the remembrance of the meek benevolence which it was defigned. to commemorate. Lights appeared at feveral of the windows. He could differn the fervants gliding about when the carriage stopped yet. all was filent, except the whifpering breeze. The hospitable doors, which used to fly open at his approach, were now cautiously unclosed. The attendants, whom the noise of the carriages had gathered in the hall, were dreffed in the weeds of woe, and their countenances were as mournful as their garb. magaria and wal dries

To the quick interrogatory of, 'Is the alive?' a faint affirmative was the only reply; and Monteith, gasping for breath, was rushing forward, when the venerable figure of Mr. Evans arrefted his steps. I am fummoned, faid the good man, waving his hand. Let e me perform my awful duty, and then you. I shall be admitted. The counters has fent to request my prayers. Join, sir, and recom-Nor - mend: mend her parting spirit to the Father of mer-

Pray for us both, raved Monteith; and if there he efficacy in prayer, entreat that my burning brain may be numbed by inferfibility. If you have any mercy, continued he, raining his voice after Mr. Evans, who had made a fign to the fervants to detain him, let me lee my wedded love. Do not you know, that it is my feverity which has broken her heart, and my forgivenels will yet reftore her? Think you that I can be patient when one lost moment may plunge me into perpetual anguish? Mr. Evans promifed that he would immediately announce his arrival; and he leaned against one of the pillars, panting with sufpence, expecting his fearful summons.

It was to the death-bed of withering youth and faded beauty, to the couch on which great-nefs, difrobed of its distinguishing ornaments, confessed its descent from the common stock of humanity, that Mr. Evans approached. "Is it my extreme weakness, or superior intelligence," said the counters in a hollow voice, that makes me now attribute such powerful efficacy to a good man's prayers."

A fellow finner, replied Mr. Evans, re-

Your hand, fir! I shall not long be able to thank you.—My situation is very awful.—
How my poor heart throbs with pain and

He forgives you first and service below the forgives you first and service below the forgives you first and service below the service of the

restrated mother, and transfer to them that theye I once enjoyed. Waste not your preci-

But I would bless them, if I dare.—Would be presumptuous in me to bless them?

A loud groan at this litant issued from the door. It was Monteith's voice, and the dying countels caught the well-known found. The bed shook with her convultive tremblings. I thought, faid the that nothing mortal would have affected me. But that voice—on that I could prostrate myself before him.

My wife! exclaimed the earl, who had by this time broke from those who attempted to restrain him, and approached the bed; when, shocked by the emaciated face where beauty once resided, he shuddering drew back his extended arms. Insernal villain, who hath brought thee to this! Cursed traitor! who first seduced me from thee;—plunged me in vice, then stole my treasure; and now laughs at my misery,—may his guilty soul for ever writhe in tortures such as I now endure! Awake, awake, my love! my Geraldine! (for, over-powered by his appearance, she had fainted.)— I forgive thee. Oh hive, my love! but I know all thy sad story. Do live, do but smile upon me. Once more bless me with thy tender smile. Nothing, nothing then shall part us. The earl continued raving till he was forced out of the apartment.

The last moments of lady Monteith's life were marked by humble confidence and dignified composure. She called for her daughters, folded them in her arms, and then placed them in her Lucy's. Be you, faid the, their future mother, and transfer to them that love I once enjoyed. Waste not your preci-

ous tears upon my unconfcious corpfe. My

• existence is multiplied sin these helplets

orphans; and they shall flourish under the

care of the fifter of my foul, Infinite mercy

may perhaps permit my feparated spirit to

withels your pious performance of this in-

trufted charge horn flames!

She again caught lady Arabella to her bofom.

My eldest darling, faid fre, w you will not

forget me. Give your aunt this ring, the

pledge of reconciliation and peace. Keep

this miniature till James can understand that

cit is his mother's likeness. Ye guardian

angels, watch over these innocents !- All

gracious Parent of the friendless, in mercy

protect my babes from my faults and my

forrows Pub. not accords do

Watch, faid fhe, addreffing Henry Powerscourt, my unhappy lord. Do not abandon him to his first forrows. Time will fosten his despair. Tell him that his repentant wife, bleffes his goodness, and dies in hopes of.

meeting him in a better world. I would have told him fo; but the fight of him.

awakes insupportable anguish. Urge him to

comply with my last request, and receive my,

children into your hospitable dwelling, And,

vou, my Christian monitor! (looking at Mr.

· Evans, early instill into their minds those, principles which repel temptation and support

diffress. O that lord Monteith would feek

confolation at the healing fountain of falva-

c tion!

Her once-radiant eyes gradually assumed a glassy dimness, yet, though no longer able to diffinguish objects, they continued fixed on, that part of the room where her children stood. Her

Her clammy hands grafped Mr. Powerscourt's with convultive eagerness, and the last founds that quivered on her lips were supplications for care of the lifter of my foul. Infinite Naram

So terminated the fhort existence of the lovely and amiable Geraldine, to whom nature, art, and fortune feemed prodigal of their favours; the faithful friend, the dutiful daughter, the observant wife, the tender mother. One fatal weakness, combining with the arts of a base seducer, annihilates all this excellence. blasts the fair promise of many happy years, and drives her to the refuge of a premature grave. argenomii eledi

Does no folemn truth speak from her early bier? Does no warning voice repel the flutter of the heart which throbs for adulation, or arrest the career of those who, madly pursuing fame or pleasure, expose domestic happiness, the only ! blifs of paradife which has furvived the fall, to the casual attacks of ignorance, the fubtle malignity of systematic depravity, and the certain ruin of indifference and neglect ? In vain does perverse human nature create fictitious bleffings, and wafte its reftlefs hours in the pursuit of visionary delights, disdaining the pure and peaceful comforts which God and nature allow to all, a guiltless conscience, focial enjoyment, felf-possession and content.

s principles which repet temptation and support differels the ther lord Wonteith would feele confoliation at the bearing fourier of fatva-

lace once-indiana eves gradually afformed a glady dimnells bet, though no longer able to AAHO h colection they continued fixed on that part of the room where her children flood." Her

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refuled to hibraria as the rightcous but fevere, swifthment's and his galled conference flarted more obe tentifying acculations, that he, tike

today yawe CH A Ph LXVIII by all all and divon all be tribe.

the aught to filence the horizons of remorfs

Vain man ! 'tis Heaven's prerogative To take, what first it deignid to give, ad buffly tributary breath sang to slyll the hands In awful expectation placide Helmid berraw Await thy doom, nor impious hafte manuscons

To pluck from God's right hand his inftruments of Rould rival the prouder fractionable with the contraction of vanity have elected over

He seased his children with mortality RS. POWERSCOURT, whose restrained forrow had forborne to interrupt the parting foul, funk upon the lifeless corpse of her friend, and preffed the yet-warm lips with a fervid kils. Then receiving the terrified children into her arms, Ever dear and facred truft, fhe exclaimed, 'living images of your angel mother; dear lost companion! pleasing friend! faithful partaker of all my youthful joys!—By all the anguish of this excruciating separation, by all the endearing remembrances which my impassioned memory shall ever preserve, -by all my hopes of meeting thy approving spirit in a happier world, I will discharge my trust to these sweet innocents, and for their sakes fubdue the keen regret which would make life appear a barren desert, bereft of thy endearing loveliness.'

To the raving desperation of lord Monteith no pen can do justice. Unused to calamity, and indignant of felf-reproach, his stubborn heart refused to submit to the righteous but severe punishment; and his galled conscience started from the terrifying acculation, that he, ' like the base Judean, had flung a pearl away richer than all his tribe.'

He fought to filence the horrors of remorfe by the most extravagant affection to his lady's memory. Her funeral was conducted in the highest style of pageant decoration; and he wearied himself with examining deligns for a monument which he proposed to have executed in Parian marble, and that its magnificence should rival the proudest structures which forrow, faste, or vanity have erected over ' fallen mortality.' He teazed his children with his frantic caresses; vowed that he only existed for their sakes; determined never to be separated from them; and traced, with mingled eestacy and anguish, the various refemblances which

the bore to their mother.

My little Geraldine, he would fay, is her perfect image. Just such a smile as that of my beloved, before I knew that accurred Fitzosborne. Lucy has her beautiful hair, and Arabella her melodious voice. Poor James too—but I have never seen him since he was three months old. They will all for-get her, except Arabella. Yet the murderer still lives.—But may I perish, Fitzosborne, if I do not pursue thee to the remotest corners

While the heart glows with fentiments of just indignation, it is natural to inquire the fate of the author of these calamitous scenes. The last hours of Fitzosborne's life were not sufficiently splendid to allure inexperience to defeat the plain path of rectitude, from the Vol. II. hope . SEMIT SHT TO STATE A COMPONENT, COMPE

Hope of acquiring fame or fortune by indirect meats. 151112 Had Maced procked the forbidden fruit, but he had found it, like the bitter apples of Sodom, diffialteful and delutive, the origin of milery and regrets she better apples

Difficient and regret.

Difficient of the second of the victim of his artifices; compelled to fly his fiative country, or to languish in hopelets captivity; abandoned even by the licentious part of the world, who though they enthuliaftically applicand triumphant vice, are ever first to shun indigent guilt; Fitzosborne was now less to meditate on the abuse of distinguished talents, the waste of perverted industry, and the folly, as well as the wickedness, of that knowledge which only alongs to organise depaying.

These insupportable resections were, however, foon interrupted; and his miferable exiftence brought to a period by other means
than the (word of an injured hufband and betrayed friend. Retributive justice not only willed his fall in that country where he had imbibed his pettilent notions; it also decreed, that those very opinions should be the immediate ate occasion of his death. It is well known, that the merciless tyranny which Robespierre erected on the tomb of the murdered Louis fpared neither friends por enemies. Firzofborne, as an Englishman and so gentleman became an object of suspicion. I bevain did he plead that he had diffraced his accesors, and abjured his country; in vain boalt his contempt of Superflition and abhorrences of preserbed forms poin vain bend with mock adoration at the idel theine of liberty, or with fergile adulation load the new Romans with the fallified epithets of magnanimous and illustrious: they,

who spared not a Roland or a Condorcet, could not be expected to regard sanguinary principles, unless attested by the repeated perpetration of sanguinary deeds

In the gloom of the Abbaye prison, exposed to all the various wretchedness of want, disturbed by the groams of fellow-sufferers, and surrounded by the instruments of despation, the wretched Fitzosborne might have seen the resutation of that falls philosophy which, sounded upon the visionary perfectibility of the human species, rejects the wife restrictions which somnite Wildom has contrived as a barrier against the extreme atrocity of a fallible creature. But Fitzosborne could neither commune with his own heart, nor seek forgiveness at that throne of mercy which he had often presumptuously blasphemed. Amongst the effects of these alarming doctrines, it is not the least same that they steel the heart against contrition. The unhappy sinner, whom passion betrays into guilt, trembles at the recollection of those crimes which the systematic villain justifies. But the forrows of pentence lead to hope, white the pangs of implicty end in despair.

Shrinking with horror from the digrace of a public execution, Fitzofborne applied to the unbeliever's last resource, and with his own hand anticipated the stroke of the guillotine. He died amongst men brutalized by guilt, or petrified by suffering. He could not, therefore, expect the poor consolation of pity, but his last moments were unexpectedly rendered more agonizing by the intelligence (which the keeper of the prison communicated with all the unfeeling cruelty of his profession) that the Dictator, having received a very favourable account of his talents, had not only determined to liberate him from prison, but

is the load the new Rocals with the falfified epithets of magnanimous and illustrious: they, who

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than the fword of an injured hufband and betrayed friend. Retributive justice not only willed his fall in that country where he had imbibed his pettilent notions; it also decreed, that those very opinions should be the immediate ate occasion of his death. It is well known that the merciles tyranny which Robespierre erected on the tomb of the murdered Louis fpared neither friends por enemies. Fitzof. bonne, as an Englishman and so gentleman became an object of suspicion albayain did he plead that he had diffraced his ancefors, and abjured his country; in wains boath his contempt of superflition and abhorrences be presented forms pain win bend with mock adoration at the idel thrine of liberty, or with fergile adulation load the new Romans with the fallified epithets of magnanimous and illustrious : they,

who spared not a Roland or a Condorcet, could not be expedied to regard languinary principles unless attested by the repeated perpetration of

languinary deeds, sail is bound bed and trud that In the gloom of the Abbaye prison, exposed to all the various wretchedness of want, disturbed by the groans of fellow-fufferers, and furrounded by the instruments of despotism, the wretched Fitzosborne might have seen the resultation of that falls philolophy which, founded upon the vision-ary perfectibility of the human species, rejects the wife restrictions which losinite Wildom has contrived as a parrier against the extreme atrocity of a fallible creature. But Fizzolborne could nei-ther commune with his own heart, nor leek forgiveness at that throne of mercy which he had often presumptuously blasphemed. Amongst the effects of these alarming doctrines, it is not the least lamentable that they steel the heart against contrition. The unhappy sinner, whom passion betrays into guilt, trembles at the recollection of those crimes which the fystematic villain justifies. But the forrows of penitence lead to hope, while the pangs of implety end in despair. Ust said ballis

Shrinking with horror from the diffrace of public execution, Fitzofborne applied to the unbeliever's last refource, and with his own hand a anticipated the Itroke of the guillotine. He died among it men brutalized by guilt, or petrified by fuffering. He could not, therefore, expect the poor confolation of pity; but his last moments were onexpectedly rendered more agonizing by the intelligence (which the keeper of the prilon communicated with all the unfeeling cruelty of his profession) that the Dictator, having received a very favourable account of his talents, had not only determined to liberate him from prilon, but

is all load the new Rocals with the falfified epithets of magnanimous and illustrious: they, who

alle techdranice him to forme donfidential employlanguage danta do esta i and paoguirobbundere. mam. deeplo the reality of which he yet witheids to he lieue; sklinging to life; withis greater carnelines; in proportion rastithe possibility of living diminithed schingthis swarimpatience, which had irretoicvably deftroyed the fair profects which he might have realized; flung by remorfe and felb atmulation, anithbut sinesdays of shope ; vFitzofbonie no ket rible inhamentad lexist appeared to anticipate the chordes di fututity li But shere let me drop the awful weilto and while justice refuses the commiferating steam let buman nature, conscious of its own infirmities, humbly solicit the protection of Omnipotence against the magic of novelty, the delusions of sophistry, and the arrogance of human Reaforn, whenever, proud of her own supremacy, the presumes to pass the interdicted bounds preferibed to her finite powers.

The history of my remaining characters will be comprifed in a few pages. Mr. Powerscourt prudently determined to let the first effervescence of lord Monteith's grief subside before he requested to be intrulted with the care of those children whose fociety the unhappy father fancied would alleviate his affliction. But the cheek of infancy. is not always dimpled with smiles. Its little foibles require calm correction; and though it is delightful to teach the young idea how to · shoot," its wild luxuriance must be tenderly repreffed. Calamity did not increase the number of the earl's virtues, and patience and application were never wanted in the lift. He therefore foon found the prattle of childhood too mild an opiate to lull the tortures of corroding reflection. Lady Arabella too, who, on hearing that skill in education was the very highest ton had determined Adding.

perceived that verbs and propolitions were very dult reading, and that the engagements of the february incompatible with mixing in the world. In less than three months after the death of their mother, the children were fixed at Powerfcourt to the mutual latisfaction of all parties or very graph; beginner and adapted at

Love is faid to be the only passion which can conquer death. But friendship, as belonging to the same family, claims the like honour. Long after the lamented death of Lady Monteith, the following sonnet flowed from her Lucy's pen:

to olgan all To FRIENDSHIP, to notice to

Can calm the terrors of life's ruthless thorms,

Come, with thy daughter's memory, and beguile

My pensive hours. Recall the fairy forms

Of early pleasures. Bid them trip along

Renew my Geraldine's enchanting long

segns bim, won teldraw daidy gool taff dren whole lociety the unhappy father andied would

Obe her pereles excellence difplay'd, d staivella

Frue to the likenels in my bolom worn

O'er weeping error cast that lenient shade, 2210

Which fereens repensance from opprebrious

Gild with the lamp the cold sepulched gloom, and And twine the roses round the mouldering tomble nool arolarent all affile at a barraw reven arew.

But it was not to the expressions of vain regret or elegant susceptibility that this amiable woman appealed for the attestation of her inviolable affection. Her exemplary discharge of the awful trust

truff which the had undertaken undueftionably confirmed the incerity of her fegard. The reward her pious care, but who that recollects their mother's fate will dare to predict the event?

Though the neighbourhood round Powerscourt-house will long retain an affectionate veneration for the memory of their late benefactor, yet they consels with gratitude, that the prefent re-presentative of that illustrious house is the true heir of the good fir William's virtues. The exertions of an intelligent cultivated mind supply the deficiencies of a less ample fortune; and the defires of Henry Powerscourt to confer happiness are only limited by his power of bestowing

Though happy in his union with a woman, whose taste and character is most happily adapted to his own, he has not entirely forgotten the attachment of his early years; and he views the adopted children of his once adored Geraldine with all the fondness of paternal affection. Hetraces with tender anxiety their refemblance to their mother; and he sympathises with poignant fenfibility in all his Lucy's regrets and cares. Often as he wanders through the shades which derive a greater beauty from the interesting remembrance of youthful pleasures, he contemplates the perplexed maze of past events, and railes his eyes in grateful veneration of that Being who kept him stedfast in the path of duty, and ultimately led him to tranquillity and content.

Mr. Evans continues to enjoy a serene old age, dignified by the exalted virtues which are comprized in the general term of christian philanthropy. He occasionally visits at the manor-house, and is gratified by the company of his children

mercenary

and their young charge. But his time is generally spent at the rectory, meditating on the perpetuity of that to which he is journeying. His respectful gratitude to his late patron is exemplified by the care he takes to preserve among his parishioners the remembrance of those mild virtues conspicuous in his William's character, which were ennobled by the long of angels, and are happily adapted to universal practice, Peace on earth and good-will toward men.

Lord Monterth continues to drag a miferable existence. His intemperate habits have entirely obliterated all the graces of his person and the amiable qualities of his mind. He is now the affociate of boon companions, and the dupe of sharpers; sought only by service sycophants and usurers, and avoided by all who preserve any decent respect for character. His health rapidly declines. Prevented by legal restrictions from ultimately injuring his children's property, he has been driven by his thoughtless extravagance to the desperate resource of life annuities, which have been multiplied, till they so nearly reach the value of his rent-roll, that it is now become a sound favourite speculation whether his life or his fortune will hold out the longest.

Repeated matrimonial disappointments have given lady Arabella Macdonald something of a cynical cast of mind. Not that it appears in her cynical cast of mind. Not that it appears in her and is always the best dressed and noisiest woman of fashion in the room. But she has been heard to express several misanthropic sentiments; and and her distinct to the male part of the species has arisen to such a degree of acrimony, that she afterns she will never part with her liberty, which has a the zest of life, to oblige any of those odious

mercenary creatures. There are people who think that the will perfewere in her resolution, not on account of her having lately become a belle of prit of the first class, but from the knowledge of some private events which have lately happened at the pharo table kept by the right honourable lady viscounters Fitzosborne, wife of a British senator, and lady Arabella's most particular friend.

The Author's intention of enforcing tome maral truthe by an appropriate narrative is now complete. Whatever difregard of applaule the may affect in her allumed character, or whatever inditference the may really feel for the fiar of the felfconstituted guardians of literature, if they should pervert their important and highly responsible office, by exerting the influence which learning and wit give them over the public taffe in recommending works injurious to public morals, the ftill recohects, that found fenle, accurate difcrimination, and correct judgment, form a part of that public by which her ment must be tried; and the cannot but feel anxious, that the rectitude of her intention should be admitted by such a tribunal.

If her apprehension of the dangerous tendency of some popular productions should be deemed ill-founded, the real friends of morality and religion will still say, "God speed!" to the enthusiastic champson who sallies forth to resist even the delving mole that exerts its puny powers to undermine the sacred edifice. Nor will her acrimonious censure of those salse lights which lead the unwary astray, induce the reslecting reader to suspect that she is hostile to the cause of real candour, true philosophy, and judicious liberality. In common with every well-wisher to the happiness and improvement of the world, she deeply mourns

mourns the irreparable injuries which they have received from the blasphemous pretentions of those hypocritical furies who have usurped their

hallowed characters to add an apology to the She teels it necessary to add an apology to the lovers of propriety and decorum, for her frequent allusions to religious subjects, and her intermixture of serious truths with fictitious events. It is not from any vain desire of throwing, her feeble gage in the crowded helds of controversy, much less from a want of heart-felt reverence for sacred themes, that she adventured to make these digressions; but as the most fashionable, and perhaps most successful, way of vending pernicious sentiments has been through the medium of books of entertainment, the concerves it not only allows. entertainment, the conceives it not only allowable, but necessary, to repel the enemy's infidious

One of the misfortunes under which literature now labours is, that the title of a work no longer announces its intention; books of travels are converted into vehicles of politics and lystems of legiflation. Female letter-writers teach us the arcana of government, and obliquely vindicate, or even recommend, manners and actions at which female delicacy should blush, and female tender-ness mourn. Traits on education subvert every principle of filial reverence : Writers on morality lay the axe to the root of domestic harmony: Compilers of natural history debase their pages with descriptions which modesty cannot peruse Philologists dispute the revealed will of God: Philosophers and antiquarians deny its historical credibility: and Mathematicians define the nonentity of Him in whom we live, and move, and have our being. The muse chaunts the yell of discord, and, under the pretence of universal citizenship mounds

tizenship, sounds the dire of that amor patrice which her claffic predeceffor fought to inspire, And laft, though not leaft in its effect, the novel, calculated, by its infinuating nacrative and interesting description to fascinate the imagination without routing the ftronger energies of the mind. is converted into an offensive weapon, directed against our religion, our morals, or our governmens as the humour of the writen may determine his particular watfafe. The agotifu of infidelity, which guides the wandering pen, may be the undeligned cause of some of these effects; but repeated deviations from an oftenfible subject can only proceed from a fettled delign of covertly attacking whatever fcience once taught us to reverde to range and restriction

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Detects the specious fallacies of youth,

"Reviews the motives which no more engage,
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Her tender nature fuffers in the crowd,
Nor touches on the world without a flain:
The world's infectious: few bring back at eve,
Immaculate, the manners of the morn.

" Virtue alone out-builds the pyramids;

" Her monuments fhall laft, when Egypt's fail.

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